

CHAPTER 2 – RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

This chapter presents six alternative resource management plans (RMPs) (A, B, C, D, E, and F) for management of the Bighorn Basin Planning Area. Alternative A, the No Action Alternative, represents the continuation of current management direction. Alternatives E and C represent the “bookends” or the range of action alternatives. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) identified Alternative D as its Agency Preferred Alternative in the Draft RMP and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Based on comments received during the public comment period on the Draft RMP and Draft EIS, the BLM revised the Agency Preferred Alternative. As modified, Alternative D is now presented as the Proposed RMP in the Final EIS. Alternative E is the same as Alternative B outside of greater sage-grouse Key Habitat Areas. Within greater sage-grouse Key Habitat Areas, Alternative E includes additional management actions and designates the area as an Area of Environmental Concern (ACEC). Similarly, Alternative F is the same as Alternative D outside of greater sage-grouse Priority Habitat Management Areas (PHMAs). Within greater sage-grouse PHMAs, Alternative F includes additional management actions and designates these areas as an ACEC. Each alternative has a different emphasis for managing public lands and resources in the Planning Area, and represents a complete and reasonable land use plan that meets the purpose and need described in Chapter 1.

2.1 Alternatives Development Process

To comply with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements in the development of alternatives for this RMP and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the BLM sought public input and analyzed a reasonable range of alternatives, including the No Action Alternative (Alternative A). Alternative formulation considered existing land use plan decisions and issues and concerns developed internally and solicited from the public during the scoping process. Broadly, the BLM followed six steps to develop alternatives:

- Step 1. Receive public input (scoping).
- Step 2. Identify current management (Alternative A, No Action Alternative).
- Step 3. Develop the range of alternatives (Alternatives B and C).
- Step 4. Analyze the effects of the alternatives (Alternatives A, B, and C).
- Step 5. Develop the Agency Preferred Alternative (Alternative D).
- Step 6. Develop additional alternatives in response to the identified need for a Supplement to the Draft RMP and Draft EIS (Alternatives E and F).

2.1.1 Step 1 – Receive Public Input

The BLM collected and considered public input during the scoping process to develop the alternatives and their management actions. The BLM considers public input throughout the alternatives development process. Chapter 1 and the project Scoping Report (available on the RMP Revision website at <http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/bighorn.html>) summarize the results of the public scoping process and opportunities for future public involvement.

2.1.2 Step 2 – Identify Current Management

The Cody RMP (BLM 1990), Washakie RMP (BLM 1988a), and Grass Creek RMP (BLM 1998a) (the existing land use plans) are the basis for the No Action Alternative (Alternative A), or current management direction. The BLM Interdisciplinary (ID) Team brought the management decisions from these three plans into one combined table (see Section 2.7 *Detailed Descriptions of Alternatives by Resource*) as Alternative A – Current Management. Alternative A, in conjunction with the planning criteria and the key issues identified during the scoping process, then set the stage for developing the range of alternatives.

2.1.3 Step 3 – Develop the Range of Alternatives

The BLM conducted a series of six alternatives development workshops with an ID Team (BLM and cooperating agency personnel). During the initial workshop, the ID Team shared their knowledge and expertise and collaborated to identify goals and objectives (desired outcomes) for each resource. Each subsequent workshop refined management actions in each alternative and narrowed the scope of alternatives to a reasonable range limited by the planning criteria (see Chapter 1, Planning Criteria). Table 2-1 lists the dates and locations of each workshop. Before each workshop, the BLM specialists prepared preliminary draft alternatives for each resource to be discussed during the upcoming workshop. These preliminary draft alternatives served as the starting point for alternative formulation and the basis for ID Team discussions during the workshops.

Table 2-1. Alternatives Development Workshops

Workshop Number	Dates	Location	Focus
1	March 25 – 27, 2009	Cody, Wyoming	Goals and Objectives
2	April 29 – May 1, 2009	Worland, Wyoming	Range of Alternatives
3	May 27 – 29, 2009	Worland, Wyoming	Range of Alternatives
4	June 24 – 26, 2009	Cody, Wyoming	Range of Alternatives
5	July 29 – 31, 2009	Thermopolis, Wyoming	Range of Alternatives
6	February 17 – 19, 2010	Cody, Wyoming	Agency Preferred Alternative

The ID Team formulated the range of alternatives (alternatives B and C), which was subsequently augmented through the development of the Supplement to the Draft RMP and Draft EIS (alternatives E and F) as discussed in Section 2.1.6, to meet the purpose and need of this RMP and EIS using different approaches to resource use. Broadly put, the alternatives represent the opposite ends of a continuum of resource use from the least (alternatives B and E) to the most (Alternative C). The BLM considered, but did not carry forward for detailed analysis, alternatives that did not meet the planning criteria or the purpose and need (see Chapter 1).

2.1.4 Step 4 – Analyze the Effects of the Alternatives

The fourth step in the process is to analyze the effects of the range of alternatives. This task involved analyzing the impacts of one set of resource management actions on other resources and resource uses. The BLM compiled these data into Chapter 4 and considered them in step five.

2.1.5 Step 5 – Develop the Agency Preferred Alternative

The BLM developed Alternative D, the Agency Preferred Alternative, by considering the impacts analysis (Chapter 4) for alternatives A through C; knowledge of specific issues raised throughout the planning process; planning criteria; and recommendations from cooperating agencies, BLM specialists, and resource experts.

The BLM developed the Agency Preferred Alternative using the following selection criteria:

1. Satisfies statutory requirements (true for all alternatives).
2. Reflects what the BLM believes to be the best combination of decisions to achieve its goals and policies.
3. Represents the best solution for the purpose and need as described in Chapter 1.
4. Provides the best approach to address key planning issues.
5. Considers cooperating agencies' and BLM specialists' recommendations.

2.1.6 Step 6 – Develop Additional Alternatives in Response to the Identified Need for a Supplement to the Draft RMP and Draft EIS

As discussed in Chapter 1 (Purpose and Need for Action), the BLM completed a Supplement to the Bighorn Basin Draft RMP and Draft EIS in July 2013 after the BLM Rocky Mountain Regional Interdisciplinary Team identified the need to consider incorporation of additional management actions for the conservation of greater sage-grouse. Nominations for greater sage-grouse-related ACECs were submitted by members of the public in response to the Notice of Intent (NOI). The BLM reviewed these nominations and found importance and relevance criteria to be met, warranting consideration in the Bighorn Basin RMP Revision Project. These proposed ACECs were subsequently analyzed by incorporating two additional alternatives (E and F) in the Supplement. This Proposed RMP and Final EIS integrates content from the Draft RMP and Draft EIS (alternatives A through D) and the Supplement (alternatives E and F), and incorporates revisions based on comments received during the public comment periods for each of the aforementioned documents.

The Agency Preferred Alternative was identified as the BLM's preliminary preference in the Draft RMP and EIS. Following publication of the Draft RMP and EIS, and the Supplemental RMP and EIS, the BLM revised the Agency Preferred Alternative based on comments received during both public comment periods. As modified, Alternative D is now presented as the Proposed RMP in the Final EIS. Following resolution of protests and the Governor's consistency review, the BLM will prepare two separate RODs and Approved RMPs.

2.2 Alternatives Components

Each alternative comprises two categories of land use planning decisions – (1) goals and objectives (desired outcomes) and (2) allowable uses and management actions.

2.2.1 Goals and Objectives

Goals and objectives direct BLM actions to most effectively meet legal mandates, regulations, and agency policy, as well as local and regional resource needs. Goals are broad statements of desired outcomes that are usually not quantifiable. Objectives identify more specific desired outcomes for

resources and might include a measurable component. Objectives are generally expected to achieve the stated goals. Section 2.7 *Detailed Alternative Descriptions by Resource* describes management goals and objectives for each resource.

2.2.2 Allowable Uses and Management Actions

The BLM developed allowable uses and management actions to achieve the goals and objectives defined for each resource.

Allowable Uses

Allowable uses identify uses that are allowed, restricted, or excluded on BLM-administered surface lands and federal mineral estate. Alternatives can include specific land use restrictions to meet goals and objectives and can exclude certain land uses (such as mineral leasing, locatable mineral development, recreation, forest management, utility corridors, and livestock grazing) to preserve resource values. For example, alternatives considered in this RMP and EIS prohibit surface disturbance (a controlled surface use [CSU] stipulation to prohibit surface-disturbing activities) during development of oil and gas leases within occupied greater sage-grouse leks and associated buffers. Allowable uses often contain a spatial component because the alternatives identify whether particular land uses are allowed, restricted, or excluded. Maps of the Planning Area illustrate these spatial components and define the geographical extent of the management actions.

Management Actions

Management actions are proactive measures (for example, measures the BLM will implement to enhance watershed function and condition), or limitations intended to guide BLM activities in the Planning Area. An example of this type of management action is to prohibit surface-disturbing activities near riparian/wetland areas to achieve proper functioning condition (PFC). The allowable distance (buffer) of surface-disturbing activities from riparian/wetland areas varies by alternative, whereas all alternatives include the action (in this case, limiting surface-disturbing activities near riparian/wetland areas).

Organization of Allowable Uses and Management Actions in the Alternatives

For simplicity, the remainder of this chapter uses the term “management action” to include both allowable uses and management actions. Therefore, when text refers to management actions, it includes both categories. The alternatives include two types of management actions – *management actions common to all alternatives*, which apply regardless of alternative, and *management actions by alternative*, which represent the choice(s) considered across alternatives. Management actions by alternative represent the range of land use management decisions considered. Management actions vary among the alternatives and represent a reasonable range of management options the BLM considered to meet the stated goals and objectives and purpose and need for the Bighorn Basin RMP Revision Project. RMPs are strategic in nature, and, while they provide an overarching vision for managing resources in the Planning Area, they also must be flexible enough to accommodate changing priorities, information, and circumstances.

2.3 Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management

On December 9, 2011, a Notice of Intent was published in the Federal Register to initiate the BLM and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy across ten western states, including California, Oregon, Nevada, Idaho, Utah, and Southwest Montana in the Great Basin Region and Northwest Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, South Dakota, and North Dakota in the Rocky Mountain Region. This EIS is one of fifteen separate EISs analyzing incorporation of specific conservation measures across the range of the greater sage-grouse, consistent with BLM policy.

The BLM Washington Office (WO) issued a National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy on December 27, 2011. Wyoming BLM issued Instruction Memorandum (IM) 2012-019 on February 10, 2012, which provides guidance on greater sage-grouse habitat management and projects proposals until the RMP revision is complete. These policies have been incorporated into the Bighorn Basin Proposed RMP and Final EIS. In August 2011, the BLM convened the Sage-Grouse National Technical Team (NTT), which brought together resource specialists and scientists from the BLM, state fish and wildlife agencies, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the U.S. Geological Survey. The NTT developed a series of science-based conservation measures to be considered and analyzed through the land use planning process. WO IM 2012-044 provides direction to the BLM on how to consider the NTT conservation measures in the land use planning process. The WO IM requires that the applicable and appropriate conservation measures in the NTT report be analyzed in at least one alternative in the land use planning EIS and that a "hard look" be given to the conservation measures, as applicable to local ecological site variability. Alternatives E and F incorporate the national strategy (WO IM-2012-044).

2.3.1 BLM Programs Addressing Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Threats

The direction for managing greater sage-grouse habitat in this document is focused on responding to the threats identified by the USFWS in their 2010 "warranted but precluded" finding on listing the greater sage-grouse, as well as their Conservation Objectives Team (COT) Report. The USFWS threats do not necessarily align with BLM or USFS resource program areas, and are often integrated into several different resource program areas. Table 2-2 provides a cross-walk between the 2010 warranted but precluded finding, COT identified threats, and the BLM program areas addressing these threats, with references to specific sections of the proposed plan.

Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management

Table 2-2. USFWS Threats to Greater Sage-Grouse and Their Habitat, Applicable BLM Resource Program Areas Addressing these Threats

USFWS-Identified Threats to Greater Sage-Grouse and Its Habitat (2010 warranted but precluded finding)	COT Report-Identified Threats to Greater Sage-Grouse and Its Habitat (2013)	Applicable BLM Programs Addressing Threat
Wildland Fire	Fire	Wildland Fire Management (see section 3000)
Invasive Species	Nonnative, Invasive Plants Species	Vegetation Management (see section 4000), Range Management (see section 6000), Wildland Fire Management (see section 3000), and Recreation (see section 6000)
Oil and Gas	For wind-energy development, see Infrastructure – Powerlines/pipelines, Roads (below)	Lands and Realty (see section 6000) and Fluid Minerals (see section 2000)
Prescribed Fire	Energy Development Sagebrush Removal	Vegetation Management (see section 4000) and Wildland Fire Management (see section 3000)
Grazing	Grazing	Range Management (see section 6000), Wild Horse and Burro Management (see section 4000), Special Status Species (see section 4000), and Vegetation Management (see section 4000)
See Grazing (above)	Range Management Structures	Range Management (see section 6000)
No similar threat identified	Free-Roaming Equid Management	Wild Horse and Burro Management (see section 4000)
Conifer Encroachment	Pinyon and/or Juniper Expansion	Wildland Fire Management (see section 3000) and Vegetation Management (see section 4000)
Agriculture and Urbanization	Agricultural Conversion and Ex-Urban Development	Lands and Realty (see section 6000)
Hard Rock Mining	Mining	Lands and Realty (see section 6000), Locatable Minerals (see section 2000), Salable Minerals (see section 2000), and Non-energy Leasable Minerals (see section 2000)
See Infrastructure, Roads	Recreation	Recreation (see section 6000) and Trails and Travel Management (see section 6000)
Infrastructure Powerlines/pipelines Roads Communication sites Railroads Range Improvements (see below)	Infrastructure	Lands and Realty (see section 6000) and Trails and Travel Management (see section 6000)

Table 2-2. USFWS Threats to Greater Sage-Grouse and Their Habitat, Applicable BLM Resource Program Areas Addressing these Threats (Continued)

USFWS-Identified Threats to Greater Sage-Grouse and Its Habitat (2010 warranted but precluded finding)	COT Report-Identified Threats to Greater Sage-Grouse and Its Habitat (2013)	Applicable BLM Programs Addressing Threat
Infrastructure – Range Improvements	Range Management Structures	Range Management (see section 6000)
Water Developments	No similar threat identified	All applicable programs
Climate Change	No similar threat identified	There are no BLM programs in the proposed plan addressing this threat
Weather	No similar threat identified	There are no BLM programs in the proposed plan addressing this threat
Predation	No similar threat identified	All applicable programs
Disease	No similar threat identified	All applicable programs
Hunting	No similar threat identified	There are no BLM programs in the proposed plan addressing this threat
Contaminants	No similar threat identified	Public Health and Safety (see section 8000)

Sources: USFWS 2010, USFWS 2013a

2.3.2 Range of Alternatives for Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management

The action alternatives (B, C, D, E, and F) in the Proposed RMP and Final EIS offer a range of management approaches to maintain or increase greater sage-grouse abundance and distribution by conserving, enhancing, or restoring the sagebrush ecosystem upon which greater sage-grouse populations depend in collaboration with other conservation partners. The relative emphasis given to particular resources and resource uses differs by alternative, including allowable uses, restoration measures, and specific direction pertaining to individual resource programs. When resources or resource uses are mandated by law or are not tied to planning issues, there are typically few or no distinctions between alternatives.

The meaningful differences among the alternatives are described in Table 2-3. This section also provides a complete description of the goals, objectives, and management actions for each alternative. In some instances, varying levels of management of PHMAs and General Habitat Management Areas (GHMAs) overlap a single area, or polygon, due to management prescriptions from different resource programs. In instances where varying levels of management prescriptions overlap a single polygon, the stricter of the management prescriptions would apply.

Table 2-3. Comparative Summary of Allocation Decisions of the Proposed Plan and Draft Alternatives for Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management

Resources/Resource Uses	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Key Area Boundary)	Alternative C	Alternative D Proposed Plan	Alternative E (Key Area Boundary)	Alternative F
Leasable Minerals – Oil and Gas						
Oil and Gas Leasing – Closed (acres)	PHMA: NA GHMA: 224,525	PHMA: 1,220,209 GHMA: 770,963	PHMA: NA GHMA: 142,859	PHMA: 58,842 GHMA: 190,315	PHMA: 1,220,209 GHMA: 779,131	PHMA: 58,842 GHMA: 172,108
Oil and Gas Leasing – Open with Major Constraints (acres)	PHMA: NA GHMA: 675,137	PHMA: 0 GHMA: 583,712	PHMA: NA GHMA: 56,855	PHMA: 685,921 GHMA: 242,143	PHMA: 0 GHMA: 590,772	PHMA: 685,922 GHMA: 242,200
Oil and Gas Leasing – Open with Moderate Constraints (acres)	PHMA: NA GHMA: 673,190	PHMA: 0 GHMA: 249,838	PHMA: NA GHMA: 1,007,438	PHMA: 366,613 GHMA: 892,003	PHMA: 0 GHMA: 255,373	PHMA: 366,613 GHMA: 862,184
Oil and Gas Leasing – Open with Standard Constraints (acres)	PHMA: NA GHMA: 1,057,255	PHMA: 0 GHMA: 284,172	PHMA: NA GHMA: 295,733	PHMA: 0 GHMA: 712,245	PHMA: 0 GHMA: 280,882	PHMA: 0 GHMA: 708,561
Saleable Minerals						
Open (acres)	PHMA: NA GHMA: 1,841,405	PHMA: 401,966 GHMA: 625,430	PHMA: NA GHMA: 2,842,829	PHMA: 1,050,700 GHMA: 1,789,793	PHMA: 0 GHMA: 625,430	PHMA: 1,083,174 GHMA: 1,854,755
Closed (acres)	PHMA: NA GHMA: 266,775	PHMA: 820,575 GHMA: 1,268,033	PHMA: NA GHMA: 266,420	PHMA: 61,915 GHMA: 275,507	PHMA: 1,222,540 GHMA: 1,254,950	PHMA: 27,892 GHMA: 143,938
Locatable Minerals						
Open (acres)	PHMA: NA GHMA: 1,906,610	PHMA: 1,146,299 GHMA: 1,733,393	PHMA: NA GHMA: 2,995,631	PHMA: 1,105,380 GHMA: 1,978,937	PHMA: 0 GHMA: 1,728,724	PHMA: 1,056,404 GHMA: 1,918,147
Existing Withdrawals (acres)	PHMA: NA GHMA: 83,163	PHMA: 24,777 GHMA: 21,605	PHMA: NA GHMA: 106,453	PHMA: 1,441 GHMA: 17,611	PHMA: 24,777 GHMA: 21,605	PHMA: 49,521 GHMA: 59,471
Recommended Withdrawals (acres)	PHMA: NA GHMA: 14,281	PHMA: 52,652 GHMA: 139,373	PHMA: NA GHMA: 7,204	PHMA: 5,263 GHMA: 42,887	PHMA: 1,197,763 GHMA: 143,135	PHMA: 5,955 GHMA: 21,965
Land Resources -- Lands and Realty						
Disposal (acres)	PHMA: NA GHMA: 85,792	PHMA: 1,897 GHMA: 21,699	PHMA: NA GHMA: 109,101	PHMA: 0 GHMA: 54,109	PHMA: 1,897 GHMA: 21,699	PHMA: 11,331 GHMA: 52,477
Retention (acres)	PHMA: NA GHMA: 1,936,145	PHMA: 1,224,697 GHMA: 1,892,900	PHMA: NA GHMA: 3,024,609	PHMA: 1,112,593 GHMA: 2,011,309	PHMA: 1,224,697 GHMA: 200,600	PHMA: 1,101,300 GHMA: 1,973,687

Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management

**Table 2-3. Comparative Summary of Allocation Decisions of the Proposed Plan and Draft Alternatives for
Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management (Continued)**

Resources/Resource Uses	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Key Area Boundary)	Alternative C	Alternative D Proposed Plan	Alternative E (Key Area Boundary)	Alternative F
Land Resources – Rights-of-Way						
Open (acres)	PHMA: NA GHMA: 2,161,303	PHMA: 31 GHMA: 245,500	PHMA: NA GHMA: 1,961,517	PHMA: 0 GHMA: 743,533	PHMA: 0 GHMA: 245,500	PHMA: 0 GHMA: 747,635
Avoidance Areas (acres)	PHMA: NA GHMA: 912,927	PHMA: 1,094,914 GHMA: 1,580,334	PHMA: NA GHMA: 1,164,657	PHMA: 1,112,895 GHMA: 1,292,083	PHMA: 0 GHMA: 1,580,333	PHMA: 1,112,003 GHMA: 1,236,780
Exclusion Areas (acres)	PHMA: NA GHMA: 59,493	PHMA: 131,401 GHMA: 88,518	PHMA: NA GHMA: 7,549	PHMA: 2,087 GHMA: 35,001	PHMA: 1,226,345 GHMA: 88,518	PHMA: 289 GHMA: 37,520
Land Resources – Rights-of-Way and Corridors						
Existing (acres)	PHMA: NA GHMA: 782,240	PHMA: 264,050 GHMA: 518,251	PHMA: NA GHMA: 782,184	PHMA: 31,144 GHMA: 100,331	PHMA: 264,050 GHMA: 518,251	PHMA: 200,874 GHMA: 581,368
Proposed (acres)	PHMA: NA GHMA: NA	PHMA: 28,356 GHMA: 61,495	PHMA: 132,420 GHMA: NA	PHMA: 0 GHMA: 0	PHMA: 28,356 GHMA: 61,495	PHMA: 31,144 GHMA: 100,331
Land Resources – Renewable Energy						
Open (acres)	PHMA: NA GHMA: NA	PHMA: 31 GHMA: 245,500	PHMA: NA GHMA: 1,378,109	PHMA: 0 GHMA: 1,313,371	PHMA: 31 GHMA: 245,500	PHMA: 0 GHMA: 598,443
Avoidance Areas (acres)	PHMA: NA GHMA: NA	PHMA: 698,821 GHMA: 963,966	PHMA: NA GHMA: 1,595,036	PHMA: 1,002,408 GHMA: 493,843	PHMA: 698,821 GHMA: 963,966	PHMA: 1,035,097 GHMA: 1,209,990
Exclusion Areas (acres)	PHMA: NA GHMA: NA	PHMA: 527,494 GHMA: 704,887	PHMA: NA GHMA: 147,692	PHMA: 110,207 GHMA: 225,085	PHMA: 527,494 GHMA: 704,887	PHMA: 77,195 GHMA: 214,530
Land Resources – Travel and Transportation						
Open (acres)	PHMA: NA GHMA: 1,310	PHMA: 0 GHMA: 3,132	PHMA: NA GHMA: 14,829	PHMA: 0 GHMA: 5,884	PHMA: 0 GHMA: 3,132	PHMA: 0 GHMA: 5,884
Limited (acres)	PHMA: NA GHMA: 3,065,695	PHMA: 1,177,366 GHMA: 1,791,531	PHMA: NA GHMA: 3,095,898	PHMA: 1,109,645 GHMA: 1,996,971	PHMA: 1,177,366 GHMA: 1,791,531	PHMA: 1,109,645 GHMA: 1,958,504
Closed (acres)	PHMA: NA GHMA: 67,749	PHMA: 49,214 GHMA: 120,142	PHMA: NA GHMA: 9,274	PHMA: 2,746 GHMA: 58,567	PHMA: 49,038 GHMA: 120,142	PHMA: 2,746 GHMA: 57,899

Table 2-3. Comparative Summary of Allocation Decisions of the Proposed Plan and Draft Alternatives for Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management (Continued)

Resources/Resource Uses	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Key Area Boundary)	Alternative C	Alternative D Proposed Plan	Alternative E (Key Area Boundary)	Alternative F
Livestock Grazing Management						
Open for all classes of livestock grazing (acres)	PHMA: NA GHMA: NA	PHMA: 0 GHMA: 1,184,047	PHMA: NA GHMA: NA	PHMA: 1,111,970 GHMA: 2,056,377	PHMA: 0 GHMA: 1,184,047	PHMA: 1,111,970 GHMA: 2,017,277
Not allocated to livestock grazing (acres)	PHMA: NA GHMA: NA	PHMA: 1,226,343 GHMA: 730,304	PHMA: NA GHMA: NA	PHMA: 322 GHMA: 4,661	PHMA: 1,226,343 GHMA: 730,305	PHMA: 322 GHMA: 4,660

Source: USFWS 2013a

Note: The BLM National Operations Center calculated the acreages in this table.

ACEC Area of Critical Environmental Concern
 BLM Bureau of Land Management
 GHMA General Habitat Management Area
 NA Not applicable
 PHMA Priority Habitat Management Area

2.3.3 Development of the Proposed Plan for Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management

Changes Between the Draft RMP and Draft EIS and the Proposed RMP and Final EIS

As a result of public comments, best science, cooperating agency coordination, and internal review of the Draft EIS and the Supplement, the BLM has developed the Proposed RMP and Final EIS for managing BLM-administered land within the Bighorn Basin Planning Area. The Proposed RMP and Final EIS focuses on addressing public comments, while continuing to meet the BLM's legal and regulatory mandates. The Proposed RMP and Final EIS is a variation of the Preferred Alternative (D) and is within the range of alternatives analyzed in the Draft RMP and Draft EIS and Supplement.

Changes made to the Proposed RMP and Final EIS from the Preferred Alternative (D) in the Draft RMP and Draft EIS and Supplement are the following:

- Allocations for PHMAs and GHMAs – allocations in the Proposed RMP and Final EIS provide more opportunities for uses in GHMAs, while still maintaining conservation management by establishing screening criteria for project/activity review in greater sage-grouse habitat. Examples of changes made from the Preferred Alternative (D) to the Proposed RMP (D) include:
 - The Draft EIS Alternative D analyzed the application of a CSU stipulation within 0.6 mile of an occupied or undetermined lek. The FEIS has been updated to establish a No Surface Occupancy (NSO) stipulation within 0.6 mile of an occupied lek, as analyzed in Alternative F of the SEIS.
 - Timing limitation stipulations (TLS) have been updated for nesting and early brood-rearing habitat. The Draft EIS utilized dates from March 1-June 30. The FEIS has updated those dates to March 15-June 30. In addition, the TLS for winter concentration habitats has been updated from November 15-March 14 in the Draft EIS to December 1-March 14 in the FEIS.
- On November 21, 2014 the USGS published Conservation Buffer Distance Estimates for Greater Sage-Grouse – A Review (Manier et al. 2014). The USGS review provided a compilation and summary of published scientific studies that evaluate the influence of anthropogenic activities and infrastructure on greater sage-grouse populations. The BLM has reviewed this information and examined how lek buffer distances were addressed through land use allocations and other management actions. The State of Wyoming's Core Area Strategy is designed to protect birds and habitat within core areas using a suite of tools and mechanisms that work in concert to conserve greater sage-grouse by reducing habitat loss and fragmentation through lek buffers, disturbance limits, excluded activities, and a sophisticated mapping utility to monitor the amount and density of disturbance. The USFWS has informed the BLM that the combined effect of these overlapping and reinforcing mechanisms give USFWS confidence that the lek buffer distances in the Core Area Strategy will be protective of breeding greater sage-grouse.
- Adaptive management – Identification of hard and soft adaptive management triggers for population and habitat and identified appropriate management responses. Chapter 2 of the Draft EIS identified that the BLM would further develop the adaptive management approach by identifying hard and soft triggers and responses. All of the adaptive management hard trigger responses were analyzed within the range of alternatives.
- Monitoring and Disturbance – The monitoring framework was further refined in the Proposed RMP and Final EIS, and further clarification as to how disturbance cap calculations would be

measured were developed for the Proposed RMP and Final EIS. During the public comment periods, BLM received comments on how monitoring and disturbance cap calculations would occur at implementation. The Draft EIS outlined the major components of the monitoring strategy, as well as provided a table portraying a list of anthropogenic disturbances that would count against the disturbance cap. A BLM Disturbance and Monitoring Sub-team further enhanced the two Appendices (Appendix L and Y) in the Proposed RMP and Final EIS.

- Mitigation Strategy; Net Conservation Gain – The net conservation gain strategy is in response to the overall landscape-scale goal which is to enhance, conserve, and restore greater sage-grouse and its habitat. All of the action alternatives provided management actions to meet the landscape-scale goal (see Chapter 2, Management Actions 6061 and 6017).
- Western Association of Fish and Wildlife (WAFWA) Management Zone Cumulative Effects Analysis on Greater Sage-Grouse – a quantitative cumulative effects analysis for greater sage-grouse is included in the Proposed RMP and Final EIS. This analysis was completed to analyze the effects of management actions on greater sage-grouse at a biologically significant scale which as determined to be at the WAFWA Management Zone. The Supplement, in Chapter 4, included a qualitative analysis and identified that a quantitative analysis would be completed for the Proposed RMP and Final EIS at the WAFWA Management Zone.
- Public Comment on the Draft RMP and Draft EIS and Supplement – The Proposed RMP and Final EIS were updated based on public comment received on the Draft RMP and Draft EIS and Supplement (see Appendix A, Comment Analysis Report.)

The BLM has reviewed each of these subsequent publications, and determined that none constitute “significant new information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed action or its impacts” such that supplementation of the Bighorn Basin RMP Final EIS is required. See 40 CFR 1502.9(c)(1).

NEPA requires agencies to prepare a supplement to the Draft EIS if 1) the agency makes substantial changes in the proposed action that are relevant to environmental concerns; or 2) if there are significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed action or its impacts. A supplement is not necessary if a newly formulated alternative is a minor variation of one of the alternatives and is qualitatively within the spectrum of alternatives analyzed in the Draft EIS.

The Proposed Land Use Plan (LUP) Amendments include components of the alternatives analyzed in the Draft EIS. Taken together, these components present a suite of management decisions that present a minor variation of alternatives identified in the Draft LUP Amendments/Draft EIS and are qualitatively within the spectrum of alternatives analyzed.

As such, the BLM has determined that the Proposed LUP Amendments is a minor variation of the preferred alternative and that the impacts of the Proposed LUP Amendments would not affect the human environment in a substantial manner or to a significant extent not already considered in the EIS. The impacts disclosed in the Proposed LUP Amendments/Final EIS are similar or identical to those described Draft LUP Amendments/Draft EIS.

In developing the Proposed Plan for greater sage-grouse management, the BLM made modifications to the Agency Preferred Alternative identified in the Draft RMP and Draft EIS. The modifications are based on public comments received on the Draft RMP and Draft EIS, internal BLM review, new information and best available science, the need for clarification in the plans, and ongoing coordination with stakeholders across the range of the greater sage-grouse. As a result, the Proposed Plan provides

consistent greater sage-grouse habitat management across the range, prioritizes development outside of greater sage-grouse habitat, and focuses on a landscape-scale approach to conserving greater sage-grouse habitat.

The BLM modified the Agency Preferred Alternative identified as Alternative D in the Draft RMP and Draft EIS, which is now considered the Proposed RMP for managing BLM-administered lands within the Bighorn Basin RMP Planning Area.

Since release of the Draft RMP and Draft EIS, the BLM has continued to work closely with a broad range of governmental partners, including Governors, state fish and game agencies, the USFWS, Indian tribes, county commissioners, and many others. Through this cooperation, the BLM has developed a Proposed Plan that is consistent with state, Tribal, and local strategies in accordance with applicable law and contributes to the long-term conservation of the greater sage-grouse. The BLM also received many substantive public comments on the Draft RMP and Draft EIS (see Appendix A), which greatly informed the BLM's development of the Proposed Plan for greater sage-grouse management.

The BLM's Proposed Plan considers documents related to the conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse that were released after the publication of the Draft RMP and Draft EIS. For example, this Proposed Plan considers the USGS' 2014 report "*Conservation Buffer Distance Estimates for Greater Sage-Grouse—A Review*" (Manier et al. 2014). The State of Wyoming's Core Area Strategy is designed to protect greater sage-grouse and its habitat within core areas using a suite of tools and mechanisms to reduce habitat loss and fragmentation through lek buffers, disturbance limits, excluded activities, and a sophisticated mapping utility to monitor the amount and density of disturbance. The BLM also updated the Proposed Plan to reflect new greater sage-grouse state conservation strategies, including executive orders.

The BLM has refined the Proposed Plan to provide a layered management approach that offers the highest level of protection for greater sage-grouse in the most valuable habitat. Land use allocations in the Proposed Plan would limit or eliminate new surface disturbance in PHMAs, while minimizing disturbance in GHMA. In addition to establishing protective land use allocations, the Proposed Plan for greater sage-grouse management would implement a suite of management tools, such as disturbance limits (see Table 2-9, Management Action 4119), greater sage-grouse habitat objectives and monitoring (see Table 2-9, Management Actions 7178, and 7287), mitigation approaches (see Table 2-9, Management Action 7178), adaptive management triggers and responses (see Table 2-9, Management Action 7287), and lek buffer-distances (see Table 2-9, Management Actions 4116, 4117, and 4121). These overlapping and reinforcing conservation measures are intended to work in concert to improve greater sage-grouse habitat condition and provide clarity and consistency on how the BLM will manage activities in greater sage-grouse use habitat.

2.3.4 BLM Proposed Plan for Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management

Many of the proposed plan goals, objectives, management actions and allowable uses identified in this section originate from specific BLM resource and/or program areas (e.g., Physical Resources) and have been determined to be applicable to the proposed management of greater sage-grouse habitat. The record numbers in Table 2-4 are the same as those presented in the Detailed Alternative Descriptions (Table 2-9) of this chapter and have simply been consolidated in Table 2-4 to depict how the agency proposes to manage greater sage-grouse habitat.

Table 2-4. BLM Proposed Plan for Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management

Record #	Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL RESOURCES	
0001	Surface-disturbing activities are subject to the <i>Wyoming BLM Mitigation Guidelines for Surface-Disturbing and Disruptive Activities, the Wyoming BLM Reclamation Policy, and the Wyoming DEQ-WQD's Storm Water Permitting Program</i> .
0002	The BLM may pursue a withdrawal from appropriation under the mining laws for locatable minerals within ACECs, recommended WSR suitable waterway segments, and special status species habitat on a case-by-case basis.
0003	Utilize recommendations found in WGFD documents Recommendations for Development of Oil and Gas Resources within Crucial and Important Wildlife Habitats (WGFD 2010b), <i>Wildlife Protection Recommendations for Wind Energy Development in Wyoming</i> (WGFD 2010c), and similar documents updated over time where determined applicable and consistent with valid existing rights.
PHYSICAL RESOURCES – SOIL	
GOAL PR3	Maintain or improve soil health (e.g., chemical, physical, and biotic properties) while focusing on making significant progress toward meeting the <i>Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands</i> (Appendix N).
Objective:	
PR3:	Apply guidelines and appropriate measures to all management actions (including reclamation) affecting soil health to decrease erosion and sedimentation, to achieve and maintain stability, and to support the hydrologic cycle by providing for water capture, storage, and release.
1008	Develop appropriate mitigation for surface-disturbing and disruptive activities associated with wildlife and fish management through use of the mitigation guidelines described in Appendix H.
1016	Allow seeding of areas disturbed by surface-disturbing activities (as part of interim and final reclamation) and areas not meeting resource objectives using approved BLM seed mixtures.
1017	In disturbed areas, reestablish healthy native or desired plant communities based on pre-disturbance/desired plant species composition.
1019	Interim and final reclamation will begin at the earliest feasible time. Successful final reclamation of the desired vegetative cover will be considered achieved if conditions are equal to or better than pre-disturbance site condition. Require reclamation in compliance with BLM policy, including Wyoming BLM Reclamation Policy and similar guidance updated over time.

Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management

Table 2-4. BLM Proposed Plan for Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management (Continued)

Record #	Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
MINERAL RESOURCES	
GOAL MR:1	Provide opportunities for mineral extraction and energy exploration and development to meet national and local needs, while avoiding or mitigating impacts on other resources.
Objective:	
MR:1.2	Encourage sound, balanced exploration and development of mineral resources in the Planning Area.
GOAL MR:2	Manage leaseable fluid mineral resources (oil, gas, CBNG, geothermal) in the Planning Area to meet the Nation's energy needs, without compromising long-term health and diversity of public lands and resources.
Objectives:	
MR:2.1	Provide opportunities to explore and develop federal oil and gas resources and other leaseable minerals.
MR:2.2	Provide opportunities for collection of subsurface geological (geophysical) data to aid in the exploration of oil and gas resources in areas open to leasing.
MR:2.3	Priority will be given to leasing and development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, outside of PHMA and GHMA. When analyzing leasing and authorizing development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, in PHMA and GHMA, and subject to applicable stipulations for the conservation of greater sage-grouse, priority will be given to development in non-habitat areas first and then in the least suitable habitat for greater sage-grouse. The implementation of these priorities will be subject to valid existing rights and any applicable law or regulation, including, but not limited to, 30 U.S.C. 226(p) and 43 C.F.R. 3162.3-1(h).
MR:2.4	Where a proposed fluid mineral development project on an existing lease could adversely affect greater sage-grouse populations or habitat, the BLM will work with the lessees, operators, or other project proponents to avoid, reduce and mitigate adverse impacts to the extent compatible with lessees' rights to drill and produce fluid mineral resources. The BLM will work with the lessee, operator, or project proponent in developing an APD for the lease to avoid and minimize impacts to sage-grouse or its habitat and will ensure that the best information about the Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitat informs and helps to guide development of such Federal leases.
GOAL MR:3	Manage solid leaseable mineral resources (coal, oil shale, tar sands, phosphate, sodium, etc.) to help meet local and regional needs, while avoiding or mitigating effects on other resources.
Objective:	
MR:3.1	Provide opportunities for exploration, leasing, and development of solid leaseable minerals consistent with goals and objectives of other natural and cultural resources and values.
GOAL MR:4	Manage saleable mineral materials to meet local and regional needs, while avoiding or mitigating effects on other resources.
Objective:	
MR:4.2	Provide opportunities for exploration and development of saleable minerals in suitable locations while avoiding or mitigating effects to other resources.
GOAL MR:5	Manage locatable minerals activities on lands open to mineral entry, while preventing unnecessary and undue degradation of public lands as defined in 43 CFR 3809.5, and while avoiding or mitigating effects of exploration and production on other resources.
Objective:	
MR:5.1	Provide opportunities for exploration and development of locatable minerals while reducing and mitigating effects of mining on other natural resources.
LEASEABLE MINERALS – COAL	
2004	Consider interest in exploration for, or leasing of, federal coal (Map 6), if any on a case-by-case basis. Allow coal exploration licenses subject to the regulations of 43 CFR 3410, and subject to guidance mitigating for surface-disturbing activities in the Wyoming BLM Standard Oil and Gas-Lease Stipulations (Appendix I). Before issuing a coal exploration license, require the authorized officer to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement, if necessary, of the potential effects of the proposed exploration on the natural and socio-economic environment of the affected area. If an application for a federal coal lease is received, conduct an appropriate land use and environmental analysis, including the coal screening process, to determine whether the area(s) proposed for leasing is (are) acceptable for coal development and leasing (as per 43 CFR 3425). If public lands are determined to be acceptable for further consideration for coal leasing, amend the land use plan as necessary. Only accept federal coal lease applications on those federal coal lands with development potential identified as suitable for further leasing consideration, after application of the coal screens and unsuitability criteria. At the time an application for a new coal lease or lease modification is submitted to the BLM, the BLM will determine whether the lease application area is "unsuitable" for all or certain coal mining methods pursuant to 43 CFR 3461.5. PHMA is essential habitat for maintaining Greater Sage-Grouse for purposes of the suitability criteria set forth at 43 CFR 3461.5(o)(1).

Table 2-4. BLM Proposed Plan for Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management (Continued)

Record #	Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
LEASABLE MINERALS – GEOTHERMAL	
2005	Unless otherwise noted, BLM-administered land in the Planning Area that is open to oil and gas leasing is open to geothermal leasing, subject to appropriate mitigation developed through use of the mitigation guidelines described in Appendix H. Unless otherwise noted, those lands identified as closed to oil and gas leasing are closed to geothermal leasing.
2007	Protect important resources, including in areas closed to leasing on existing leases (Map 7) to the extent this restriction does not violate the leaseholder/operator lease rights, by applying an NSO restriction and prohibiting surface-disturbing activities.
In areas identified as available for leasing, additional planning, analysis, and decision making may be necessary prior to lease issuance under the following criteria: 1) when oil and gas development is resulting in unacceptable multiple-use or natural/cultural resources conflicts, 2) new information evidences increased oil and gas development densities or surface disturbance, or 3) at the discretion of the Field Manager, District Manager, or State Director. Areas closed for oil and gas leasing may be leased with a NSO stipulation to deal with drainage of these resources from federal mineral estate.	
LEASABLE MINERALS – OIL AND GAS/CBNG EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT	
2008	Determine the routing of access roads and location of well pads after considering the views of the surface owner on split-estate lands (private surface-federal minerals/oil and gas), where possible.
Where the federal government owns the mineral estate, and the surface is in non-federal ownership, apply the same stipulations, COAs, and/or conservation measures and RDFs applied if the mineral estate is developed on BLM-administered lands in that management area, to the maximum extent permissible under existing authorities, and in coordination with the landowner.	
Where the federal government owns the surface and the mineral estate is in non-federal ownership, apply appropriate surface use COAs, stipulations, and mineral RDFs through ROW grants or other surface management instruments, to the maximum extent permissible under existing authorities, in coordination with the mineral estate owner/lessee.	
2010	Unless otherwise noted, areas that are open to oil and gas leasing are open to geophysical exploration subject to appropriate mitigation developed through use of the mitigation guidelines described in Appendix I. Areas closed to oil and gas leasing are closed to geophysical exploration. However, geophysical exploration may be permitted on a case-by-case basis so long as the resource goals and objectives under which the area was closed are not compromised.
2011	In cases where federal oil and gas leases are or have been issued without stipulated restrictions or requirements that are later found to be necessary, or with stipulated restrictions or requirements that are later found to be insufficient, consider their inclusion before approving subsequent exploration and development activities. Include these restrictions or requirements only as reasonable measures or as conditions of approval in authorizing APDs or Master Development Plans.
Conversely, in cases where leases are or have been issued with stipulated restrictions or requirements that are later found to be excessive or unnecessary, the stipulated restrictions or requirements may be appropriately modified, excepted or waived in authorizing actions. Both the application of reasonable measures or COAs and the modification, exception, or waiver of stipulated restrictions or requirements must first be based upon site-specific analysis including the necessary supporting NEPA compliance.	
2013	Utilize BMPs in the exploration, development, production, and abandonment of oil and gas resources.
LEASABLE MINERALS – OTHER SOLID LEASABLE MINERALS	
2015	Lease solid minerals such as phosphates or sodium, consistent with other resources, on a case-by-case basis.
SALABLE MINERALS	
2016	Existing BLM-approved mineral material sites (Map 8) are open to mineral materials disposal. New mineral material disposal sites in areas open to mineral materials disposal are subject to site-specific analysis prior to approval. Ensure that each community pit has an updated site-specific reclamation fee based on a current mining and reclamation plan. Ensure that reclamation occurs in mined-out areas of community pits.
2017	Dispose of mineral materials on a case-by-case basis, subject to site-specific analysis and appropriate mitigation prior to approval, in areas open to mineral materials disposal.

Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management

Table 2-4. BLM Proposed Plan for Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management (Continued)

Record #	Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
LEASABLE MINERALS – OIL AND GAS MANAGEMENT AREAS, MASTER LEASING PLAN AREAS, AND OTHER AREAS	
2029	<p>Delineate Oil and Gas Management Areas (Map 25) (441,662 acres of federal mineral estate) around the existing intensively-developed fields, applying a 2-mile buffer from the outer boundary of the existing field (Map 26); adding enhanced oil recovery areas identified by the Governor's Office Enhanced Oil Recovery Institute and excluding greater sage-grouse PHMAs. Manage these areas primarily for oil and gas exploration and development.</p> <p>Oil and gas development within Oil and Gas Management Areas is allowed to take place at the same level and density of the existing field development and will include enhanced oil recovery research and development operations, except in the Oregon Basin Oil Field, where new development will not exceed the current disturbance levels. Levels and densities beyond the existing field development may require additional NEPA analysis, reclamation, or compensatory off-site mitigation.</p> <p>As oil and gas fields expand or exploration reaches beyond the Oil and Gas Management Areas depicted on Map 25, Oil and Gas Management Areas may be enlarged as appropriate. To enlarge Oil and Gas Management Areas, the expansion area would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) have to be adjacent to the field and under valid oil and gas lease(s) with stipulations allowing surface occupancy and development; ii) have to have a surface density of, on average, at least four well pads per 640-acres; a determination that additional well density is required to efficiently and adequately produce the oil or gas resource; iii) have a project-specific environmental analysis prepared to analyze the impacts and determine operating methods, mitigation, and BMPs to be used in the efficient and comprehensive development of the field; and iv) need surface resources to be satisfactorily mitigated; v) need commitment to accelerate reclamation as required by the authorized officer.
FIRE AND FUELS MANAGEMENT	
<p>GOAL FM:1 Reducing risk to firefighters and the public is the first priority in every fire management activity. Protect life, property, and resource values by responding to wildland fires based on ecological and social consequences of the fire and the circumstances under which it occurs.</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <p>FM:1.3 Manage fuels to restore and maintain landscapes, and promote fire-adapted communities and infrastructure. Fire and fuels management actions will focus on restoring natural fire regimes and frequencies, and accomplishing DPC objectives.</p> <p>FM:1.5 Following wildland fires, conduct appropriate emergency stabilization and rehabilitation when and where needed. In priority sage-grouse habitat areas, prioritize suppression immediately after life and property to conserve the habitat. In general sage-grouse habitat, prioritize suppression where wildfires threaten priority sage-grouse habitat.</p> <p>GOAL FM:2 Restore natural fire regimes and frequencies to the landscape, and utilize fire and vegetation treatments to accomplish DPC objectives.</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <p>FM:2.1 Consult and cooperate with adjacent landowners, state and local governments, and other stakeholders to plan and implement prescribed fire and other vegetation treatments across the landscape. In areas of general sage-grouse habitat, design and implement fuels treatments with an emphasis on protecting existing sagebrush ecosystems.</p> <p>FM:2.2 Implement and maintain a FMP for the Planning Area; the FMP identifies the site-specific fire management practices and fuels treatment actions needed to meet this RMP's goals and objectives and includes a focus on restoring natural fire regimes and frequencies or accomplishing DPC objectives.</p>	
3002	Implement the BLM Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation standards located in the BLM Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Handbook (BLM 2007a).

Table 2-4. BLM Proposed Plan for Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management (Continued)

Record #	Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
3008	<p>Suppress fires threatening greater sage-grouse habitats and crucial winter wildlife habitat within Wyoming big sagebrush communities. Where fire would be utilized to meet resource objectives, work closely with resource specialists to protect and improve greater sage-grouse habitat.</p> <p>If prescribed fire is used in Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan will address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • why alternative techniques were not selected as a viable option; • how Greater Sage-Grouse goals and objectives would be met by its use; • how the COT Report objectives would be addressed and met; and • a risk assessment to address how potential threats to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat would be minimized. <p>Prescribed fire as a vegetation or fuels treatment shall only be considered after the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan has addressed the four bulletts outlined above. Prescribed fire could be used to meet specific fuels objectives that would protect Greater Sage-Grouse habitat in PHMAs (e.g., creation of fuel breaks that would disrupt the fuel continuity across the landscape in stands where annual invasive grasses are a minor component in the understory, burning slash piles from conifer reduction treatments, used as a component with other treatment methods to combat annual grasses and restore native plant communities).</p> <p>Prescribed fire in known winter range shall only be considered after the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan has addressed the four bulletts outlined above. Any prescribed fire in winter habitat would need to be designed to strategically reduce wildfire risk around and/or in the winter range and designed to protect winter range habitat quality.</p>
3015	<p>Utilize wildland fires (wildfires managed for resource benefit and prescribed fires) and other vegetation treatments to restore fire-adapted ecosystems, reduce hazardous fuels, and accomplish resource management objectives.</p>
	BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES – VEGETATION - FORESTS, WOODLANDS, AND FOREST PRODUCTS
GOAL BR:2	Manage vegetation resources to meet DPC objectives.
	Objectives:
BR:2.1	Manage native plant communities to restore, maintain, or enhance vegetation community health, composition, and diversity to provide a mix of successional stages that incorporate diverse structure and composition into the desired vegetation types.
BR:2.2	Maintain, improve, enhance, or restore native plant communities to facilitate the conservation, recovery, and maintenance of populations of native and desirable nonnative plant species and wildlife habitat.
BR:2.3	Maintain, improve, or enhance areas of ecological importance, priority plant species and habitats, and unique plant associations with native plant communities.
BR:2.4	Manage native plant communities across landscapes through cooperation with adjacent landowners, state and local governments, and other stakeholders.
BR:2.5	Coordinate with local, state, and federal agencies, and stakeholders to protect and recover native plant communities, and their included vegetative resources and habitat components affected by extreme environmental conditions.
BR:2.6	In PHMAs, the desired condition is to maintain a minimum of 70% of lands capable of producing sagebrush with 10 to 30% sagebrush canopy cover. The attributes necessary to sustain these habitats are described in Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health (BLM Technical Reference 1734-6 [BLM2005c]).
4014	Manage species including limber pine, subalpine fir, whitebark pine, cottonwood, willow, Rocky Mountain juniper, Utah juniper, and aspen, to enhance resources or resource uses, such as wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities, livestock grazing, watersheds, and scenic values.
4028	Manage native plant communities (Map 36) in accordance with Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands. Continue to use ecological site descriptions, resource objectives, and specific management practices to maintain or achieve the standards that consider all reasonable and practical options available to achieve desired results.
4029	Continue to monitor and evaluate climatic and vegetative data. Compile and share data with other land management agencies and partners within the Planning Area using a cooperative collaborative approach. Should the analysis of data indicate that the vegetative resource is either not meeting or making significant progress towards meeting the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands or other site specific vegetative objectives, specific management practices will be developed and would consider all reasonable and practical options available to achieve desired results.

Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management

Table 2-4. BLM Proposed Plan for Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management (Continued)

Record #	Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
4030	In plant communities determined to be meeting Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands, manage to maintain or improve those communities. The appropriate functional structural plant groups must be present for the site. Potentially manage some areas for a higher plant community state or phase (based on state and transition models in ESDs) where site-specific management objectives determine that a higher plant community state or phase is desirable. In these areas the desired plant community states or phases will be determined on a site-specific basis at the implementation level. Potentially manage some areas for lower plant community states or phases to provide preferred habitat for species.
4031	Manage to maintain contiguous blocks of native plant communities and minimize fragmentation; allow for appropriate mosaic of interrelated plant communities while allowing for other resource uses.
CONIFER ENCROACHMENT	
4106	Reintroduce appropriate fire regimes to limit conifer encroachment into the sagebrush plant communities. Take into account invasive herbaceous species and Fire Regime Group and FRCC (measure of departure from historic fire regime) with treatments. Where possible, achieve a balance between treating areas that have significantly departed from the historic fire regime (Condition Class 3).
4107	Remove conifers encroaching into sagebrush habitats. Prioritize treatments closest to occupied sage-grouse habitats and near occupied leks, and where Juniper encroachment is phase 1 or phase 2. Use of site-specific analysis and principles like those included in the Fire and Invasives Assessment Team report (Chambers et. al., 2014) and other ongoing modeling efforts to address conifer encroachment will help refine the location for specific priority areas to be treated.
4024	Manage conifer encroachment to improve wildlife habitat and forest health conditions, use Ecological Site Descriptions to help determine potential natural communities.
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES – INVASIVE SPECIES AND PEST MANAGEMENT	
GOAL BR:4	Manage for healthy native plant communities by reducing, preventing expansion of, or eliminating the occurrence of undesirable invasive, nonnative species, undesirable, nonnative, or noxious weeds (predatory plant pests or disease) by implementing management actions consistent with national guidance and state and local weed management plans.
4038	Manage invasive plant species in the Planning Area in conjunction with local counties and other stakeholders consistent with the ROD for the Final PEIS addressing Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on BLM Lands in 17 Western States (BLM 2007b), and current with policy and similar guidance updated over time.
4039	Manage invasive plant species using an Integrated Pest Management approach consistent with DOI Manual 5117, Integrated Pest Management (DOI 2007).
4042	Use certified noxious weed-free vegetation products on all BLM-administered land in the Planning Area.
4045	Reduce and prevent the expansion of cheatgrass through cooperation with other agencies, organizations, and interested stakeholders.
4044	Develop and maintain an invasive species and pest management plan. If necessary, review and update this plan annually based on available funding and input from other agencies, organizations, and interested stakeholders.
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES – VEGETATION - RIPARIAN/WETLAND RESOURCES	
GOAL BR:3	Manage riparian/wetland areas to provide a natural combination of vegetation and landform to provide the habitat and the water conditions necessary for aquatic and terrestrial species. Objectives:
	BR:3.1 Manage vegetation, soil, landform, and water to meet PFC.
	BR:3.2 Manage priority riparian/wetland areas to attain desired future conditions unique to the landscape setting
4035	Manage all riparian/wetland areas to meet or make progress towards PFC giving priority to those areas that are functioning at risk with a downward trend or that are in non-functioning condition, plus manage streams with unique recreational or aquatic values to obtain PFC.
4036	Prohibit surface-disturbing activities within 500 feet of surface water and riparian/wetland areas (70,715 acres) except when such activities are necessary and when their impacts can be mitigated.

Table 2-4. BLM Proposed Plan for Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management (Continued)

Record #	Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES – FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES - WILDLIFE	
4060	Maintain or improve important wildlife habitats through vegetative manipulations, habitat improvement projects, livestock grazing strategies and the application of The Wyoming Guidelines for Managing Sagebrush Communities with Emphasis on Fire Management (Wyoming Interagency Vegetation Committee 2002) and the Wyoming BLM Standard Mitigation Guidelines for Surface-Disturbing Activities (Appendix H), and similar guidance updated over time.
4071	In cooperation with the WGFD and other stakeholders, work to develop water sources for wildlife and special status species in coordination with the WGFD and the BLM Water Development Handbook (H-1741-2).
4073	Modify identified hazard fences, and analyze and construct new fences in accordance with appropriate wildlife needs, the BLM Fencing Handbook 1741-1, and WO IM 2010-022 Managing Structures for the Safety of Sage-grouse, Sharp-tailed grouse, and Lesser Prairie-chicken, and similar guidance and policy as updated over time.
4075	Pursue exchanges to enhance public access or improve management of important wildlife habitat areas by consolidating public land. Emphasize the acquisition of access to public lands on the Bighorn, Shoshone, Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone, and Greybull rivers; Gooseberry Creek; the upper portions of Cottonwood and Grass Creeks; and on lands where other riparian areas occur. Plus in cooperation with willing sellers and other stakeholders, pursue all land tenure adjustment authorities for the acquisition of, and interest in, lands for the improved management of important wildlife habitat.
4078	Allow water development projects in crucial elk winter range and in greater sage-grouse nesting habitat with 10 inches or less annual precipitation only when adverse effects can be avoided or mitigated based on site-specific analysis. Allow existing uses pending site-specific analysis on a priority basis.
4082	Avoid wind energy projects in big game crucial winter range and raptor concentration areas. Wind-energy development would be avoided in sage-grouse PHMAs (Map 42), unless it can be sufficiently demonstrated that the development activity would not result in declines of sage-grouse PHMA populations. Sufficient demonstration of “no declines” should be coordinated with the WGFD and USFWS.
4083	At the discretion of the BLM and its stakeholders, use produced water to develop and enhance waterfowl, special status species, and other wildlife habitats in accordance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations.
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES – FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES – SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES	
4085	Postpone or modify projects that may affect special status species to protect these species. Consult with USFWS in such cases, as required by the Endangered Species Act.
4086	Consult with stakeholders early in the permitting process to design projects in a manner that would minimize or avoid potential adverse effects to special status species.
4087	Assist authorized agencies in the restoration, reintroduction, augmentation, or re-establishment of threatened, endangered, and other special status species populations and/or habitats.
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES – GREATER SAGE-GROUSE	
4089	Discourage the use of broad-spectrum insecticides where insect control is required. Target pest control toward key problem areas and schedule applications to be effective in minimum doses in greater sage-grouse brood-rearing areas. Field Offices may implement treatments within sage-grouse habitat utilizing reduced agent-area treatments (RAATS) protocols.
4090	Avoid aerial pesticide spraying in favor of ground applications to minimize drift into non-target areas in greater sage-grouse habitat unless benefits of treatments are likely to outweigh impacts.
4091	Avoid applying pesticides to greater sage-grouse breeding habitat during the nesting and early brood-rearing season (March 15 through June 30) to reduce the loss of food supply to chicks and avoid the chance of secondary poisoning unless benefits of treatments are likely to outweigh impacts.
4092	Maintain seeps, springs, wet meadows, and riparian vegetation in a functional and diverse condition for young greater sage-grouse and other species that depend on forbs and insects associated with these areas. Consider management actions if desirable green vegetation associated with these wet areas is not available, accessible, or cannot be maintained with current livestock, wildlife, or wild horse use, and the impacts are outweighed by the improved habitat quality.

Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management

Table 2-4. BLM Proposed Plan for Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management (Continued)

Record #	Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
4093	Restore greater sage-grouse brood-rearing habitats in riparian/wetland areas.
4094	Restore lost riparian functioning systems by repairing abnormally incised drainages to raise water tables and increase water storage and brood-rearing habitats within greater sage-grouse habitat.
4095	Manage vegetation diversity and structure to provide suitable habitat and adequate cover for greater sage-grouse during nesting periods, determined by ecological site description.
4096	Maintain sagebrush and understory diversity (relative to ecological site description) in crucial seasonal greater sage-grouse habitats unless such removal is necessary to achieve greater sage-grouse habitat management objectives. For example, thinning small patches of dense sagebrush may increase desirable forbs in early brood-rearing habitat.
4097	Increase the composition and canopy cover of Wyoming big sagebrush, within existing nonnative grass seedlings with less than 5 percent sagebrush canopy cover, to greater than or equal to neighboring sagebrush communities or historical levels. (See Shrubland-Salt Desert/Salt Bottom on Map 36, deeper soiled, and gentler sloped portions of the Shrubland-Salt Desert/Salt Bottom, colored in pink, would be those areas where sagebrush restoration efforts could be conducted.)
4098	Investigate opportunities to increase sagebrush in lower precipitation zones.
4099	Plan and construct mining and mineral development activities, to the degree possible given state water rights, to minimize disturbances that would result in alterations to springs and riparian greater sage-grouse habitat. Alternative water sources may be developed to replace natural sources that have been affected or destroyed during these development activities.
4100	Treat constructed or non-natural water storage impoundments to control mosquito breeding (and the associated spread of West Nile virus), to prevent disease spread to greater sage-grouse on priority basis.
4101	In cooperation with stakeholders, manage to promote the growth and persistence of native shrubs, grasses, and forbs needed by greater sage-grouse for seasonal food and concealment.
4102	In cooperation with stakeholders, design and locate fences so as not to disturb important greater sage-grouse habitat areas. Increase the visibility of existing fences in these areas to reduce hazards to flying greater sage-grouse.
4103	Conduct fire management activities to minimize overall wildfire size and frequency in sagebrush plant communities where greater sage-grouse habitat objectives are at risk.
	General priorities for habitat protection:
	Priority # 1 - Protection of greater sage-grouse PHMAs.
	Priority # 2 - Wyoming big sagebrush communities outside greater sage-grouse PHMAs and habitats recovering from disturbance within or adjacent to greater sage-grouse PHMAs.
4104	Annually Maintain FMPs to incorporate updated sagebrush habitat information as well as fire suppression priorities in sagebrush habitats. Incorporate fire management objectives for the management of sagebrush ecosystems into FMPs. Provide fire management objectives for sagebrush ecosystems to initial attack personnel at the beginning of each fire season.
4105	Establish fuels treatment projects at strategic locations to minimize size of wildfires and limit loss of greater sage-grouse habitat.
4106	Reintroduce appropriate fire regimes to limit conifer encroachment into late brood-rearing habitats within Mountain sagebrush plant communities. Take into account invasive herbaceous species and Fire Regime Group and FRCC (measure of departure from historic fire regime) with treatments. Where possible, achieve a balance between treating areas that have significantly departed from the historic fire regime (Condition Class 3) and areas that are functioning within an appropriate fire regime (Condition Class 1).
4107	Remove conifers encroaching into sagebrush habitats. Prioritize treatments closest to occupied sage-grouse habitats and near occupied leks, and where Juniper encroachment is phase 1 or phase 2. Use of site-specific analysis and principles like those included in the Fire and Invasives Assessment Team report (Chambers et. al., 2014) and other ongoing modeling efforts to address conifer encroachment will help refine the location for specific priority areas to be treated.
4108	The BLM will collaborate with appropriate Federal agencies, and the State of Wyoming as contemplated under Governor Executive Order 2013-3, to: 1) develop appropriate conservation objectives; 2) define a framework for evaluating situations where greater sage-grouse conservation objectives are not being achieved on federal land, to determine if a causal relationship exists between improper grazing (by wildlife or wild horses or livestock) and greater sage-grouse conservation objectives; and 3) identify appropriate site-based action to achieve Greater Sage-Grouse conservation objectives within the framework.

Table 2-4. BLM Proposed Plan for Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management (Continued)

Record #		Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
4117	Inside PHMAS	<p>The BLM's goal inside sage-grouse PHMAS is to maintain or enhance seasonal habitats thereby providing support for sage-grouse population management objectives of the State of Wyoming.</p> <p>Surface occupancy and surface-disturbing activities would be prohibited on or within 0.6-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied sage-grouse leks. The authorized officer may grant an exception if an environmental record of review determines that the action, as proposed or conditioned, would not impair the function or utility of the site for the current or subsequent seasonal habitat, life-history, or behavioral needs of greater sage-grouse (Map 42).</p> <p>Leases should be a minimum of 640 contiguous acres of federal mineral estate. Smaller parcels may be leased only when 640 contiguous acres of federal mineral estate is not available and leasing is necessary to remain in compliance with laws, regulations and policy; for example, to protect the federal mineral estate from drainage or to commit the federal mineral estate to unit or communityization agreements. Preliminary parcels reviewed for possible offering in a lease sale should comply with this minimum lease size.</p> <p>Expressions of interest that are less than this minimum lease size would be evaluated and modified by the BLM to meet the minimum lease size, where possible, prior to review for possible offering in a lease sale.</p> <p>Outside PHMAS</p> <p>Outside sage-grouse PHMAS, the BLM's goal is to sustain important habitats that support core populations and to maintain lek persistence over the long term in sufficient proportions of the sage-grouse population to facilitate movement and genetic transfer between core populations, including those found in adjacent states.</p> <p>Apply a NSO stipulation to prohibit or restrict surface-disturbing activities or surface occupancy within $\frac{1}{4}$-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied sage-grouse leks (Map 42).</p>
4118	Inside PHMAS	<p>Apply a TLS to restrict disruptive activity within 0.6-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied sage-grouse leks from March 15 to June 30.</p> <p>Outside PHMAS</p> <p>Apply a TLS to restrict disruptive activity within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of occupied sage-grouse leks from March 15 to June 30.</p> <p>Inside PHMAS</p> <p>Apply a TLS to prohibit or restrict surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities in sage-grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitat within PHMAS, regardless of distance from the lek from March 15 to June 30.</p> <p>Outside PHMAS</p> <p>Apply a TLS to prohibit or restrict surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities in sage-grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitat within 2 miles of the lek or lek perimeter of any occupied lek from March 15 to June 30.</p>
4119		<p>Apply a TLS to prohibit or restrict surface-disturbing and disruptive activities in mapped sage-grouse winter habitats/concentration areas from December 1 to March 14.</p>

Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management

Table 2-4. BLM Proposed Plan for Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management (Continued)

Record #	Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
4120	Density of Disturbances In greater sage-grouse PHMAs, the density of disturbance of energy or mining facilities would be limited to an average of one site per square mile (640 acres) within the DDCT, subject to valid existing rights. The one location and cumulative value of existing disturbances would not exceed 5 percent of habitat. Utilize the greater sage-grouse density disturbance calculation tool as described in Appendix Y. Inside PHMA, all suitable habitat disturbed (any program area) will not exceed 5% within the DDCT area using the DDCT process. Consolidate anthropogenic features from development and transmission on the landscape. Allow on a case-by-case basis high profile structures within greater sage-grouse nesting habitat. Manage PHMAs (1,232,583 acres) as ROW avoidance areas. Work with proponents to design ROW applications to protect greater sage-grouse. Buried utilities constructed in designated utility corridors would not require that a DDCT be conducted. Sagebrush Treatment: Sagebrush eradication is considered disturbance and will contribute to the 5% disturbance factor. In stands with less than 15% cover, treatment should be designed to maintain or improve sagebrush habitat. Sagebrush treatments that maintain sagebrush canopy cover at or above 15% total canopy cover within the treated acres will not be considered disturbance. Treatments that reduce sagebrush canopy cover below 15% will be allowed if all such treated areas make up less than 20% of the suitable sagebrush habitat within the DDCT, and any point within the treated area is within 60 meters of sagebrush habitat with 5% or greater canopy cover. Treatments to enhance sagebrush/grassland will be evaluated based upon the existing habitat quality and the functional level post-treatment. Wildfire burns will be treated as disturbed if sagebrush is reduced below 5 percent unless there is an implementation plan outlining restoration efforts and 3 years of data showing a trend back to suitable habitat. Although seasonal restrictions on activities may apply, vegetation treatments that do not make the habitat unsuitable for greater sage-grouse are not considered in the density calculation.
4121	The BLM would work with proponents to limit project-related noise where it would be expected to reduce functionality of habitats that support PHMA populations. The BLM would evaluate the potential or limitation of new noise sources on a case-by-case basis as appropriate. The BLM's near-term goal would be to limit noise sources that would be expected to negatively impact PHMA sage-grouse populations and to continue to support the establishment of ambient baseline noise levels for occupied PHMA leks. As additional research and information emerges, specific new limitations appropriate to the type of projects being considered would be evaluated and appropriate limitations would be implemented where necessary to minimize potential for noise impacts on sage-grouse PHMA population behavioral cycles. As new research is completed, new specific limitations would be coordinated with the WGFDD and partners. Noise levels at the perimeter of the lek should not exceed 10 dBA above ambient noise.
4122	Allow motorized vehicle use in greater sage-grouse PHMAs consistent with other resource objectives, and locate new roads that will have relatively high levels of activity (i.e., accessing multiple wells, housing developments, etc.) greater than 1.9 miles from the perimeter of occupied sage-grouse leks within PHMAs. Construct roads to minimum design standards needed for production activities.
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES – RAPTORS	
4110	Work with proponents to design powerlines following USEPA guidelines to protect raptors from electrocution and to reduce predation on other special status species. Work with ROW holders to retrofit existing lines.
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES – WILD HORSES	
GOAL BR:11	Manage and maintain healthy wild horses and herds inside HMAs in a thriving natural ecological balance within the productive capacity of their habitat while preserving multiple use relationships.
4145	Base future adjustments to the appropriate management level on monitoring information and multiple use considerations through development of and/or revisions to HMA Plans. Update HMA plans to include greater sage-grouse objectives.
4146	Manage BLM-administered land within the Fifteenmile and McCullough Peaks HMAs to maintain or enhance conformance with the <i>Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands</i> .

Table 2-4. BLM Proposed Plan for Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management (Continued)

Record #	LAND RESOURCES – LANDS AND REALTY	Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
LAND RESOURCES – LANDS AND REALTY		
GOAL LR:1	Manage the acquisition, disposal, withdrawal, and use of public lands to meet the needs of internal and external customers and to preserve important resource values.	
Objectives:		
LR:1.2	Use appropriate actions such as disposal and acquisition to resolve issues related to intermixed land-ownership patterns and to acquire non-federal land having high resource/recreation value(s).	
LR:1.3	Maintain availability of public lands to meet the habitation, trade, mineral development, recreation, and manufacturing needs of external customers and the general public.	
6001	Consider land use authorizations (permits, leases, etc.) on a case-by-case basis consistent with other resource objectives. Do not classify, open, or make available any BLM-administered lands for agricultural leasing or agricultural entry under the Desert Land Entry for one of more of the following reasons: unsuitable topography, presence of sensitive resources or resource conflicts, lack of water or access, small parcel size, or unsuitable soils.	
6010	Acquire private or state lands or interest in land from willing sellers on a case-by-case basis to consolidate land ownership and enhance the ability to manage important recreation opportunities and wildlife habitats such as migration corridors, crucial big game habitat, and riparian/wetland areas. Except for lands acquired using monies from the Westside irrigation project conveyance described below, exchange is the preferred method of acquisition.	
6017	Retain approximately 3,121,558 acres of BLM-administered land. 66,363 acres of BLM-administered land are available for disposal by sale, exchange or other means (Map 54) (Appendix M). Disposal can include none, some, or all of the mineral estate as allowed by 43 CFR 2720 and FLPMA Section 209(b)(1). A mineral potential report would determine if a surface estate disposal includes none, some, or all of the mineral estate.	
	Lands classified as PHMA for Greater Sage-Grouse will be retained in federal management unless: (1) the agency can demonstrate that disposal of the lands will provide a net conservation gain to the Greater Sage-Grouse or (2) the agency can demonstrate that the disposal of the lands will have no direct or indirect adverse impact on conservation of the Greater Sage-Grouse. For lands in GHMA that are identified for disposal, the BLM will only dispose of such lands consistent with the goals and objectives of this plan, including, but not limited to, the land use plan objective to maintain or increase greater sage-grouse abundance and distribution.	
	Note: All land actions to acquire or dispose of lands would require a site-specific analysis under NEPA.	
LAND RESOURCES – RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND CORRIDORS		
6033	Designate ROW corridors as shown on Map 66. In PHMA, major overhead powerlines will not be authorized unless co-located with an existing 115 kilovolt or greater powerline, as close as technically feasible, not to exceed 0.5 miles or within a designated corridor authorized for overhead powerlines. Distribution lines may be authorized when effectively mitigated to protect greater sage-grouse and the Authorized Officer determines that overhead installation is the action alternative with the fewest adverse impacts. Agricultural and residential lines will be considered to be adequately mitigated for greater sage-grouse if constructed at least 0.6 mile from the lek perimeter with appropriate timing constraints and installation of raptor deterrents. These ROW authorizations will be subject to approval by the State Director.	Avoid placement of above-ground powerlines within one mile on each side of the Greybull Highway (14-16-20) from the City of Cody to the intersection with Highway 32 near the community of Emblem. Avoid placement of above-ground powerlines within one mile on each side of Highway 32 between Emblem and the BLM-BOR boundary to the north.
6036	Avoid placement of above-ground powerlines within one mile on each side of the Greybull Highway (14-16-20) from the City of Cody to the intersection with Highway 32 near the community of Emblem. Avoid placement of above-ground powerlines within one mile on each side of Highway 120 between the City of Cody and the Wyoming-Montana state line. Avoid placement of above-ground powerlines within one mile on each side of Highway 120 between the City of Cody and the Meeteteetse Rim to the south. Avoid placement of above-ground powerlines within one mile on each side of Highway 14-16-20 between the City of Cody and the community of Wapiti.	

Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management

Table 2-4. BLM Proposed Plan for Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management (Continued)

Record #	Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
LAND RESOURCES – COMPREHENSIVE TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT	
6038	Unless otherwise specified in other management actions, motorized vehicle use on BLM-administered land is limited to existing roads and trails on an interim basis until completion of travel management planning. Designation changes from “limited to existing roads and trails” to “limited to designated roads and trails” upon the completion of a travel management plan. Terms “interim existing roads and trails”, or “existing roads and trails” are used throughout the document to identify areas of low travel management planning priority. Interim existing roads and trails may be maintained for continued access until completion of a travel management plan.
6047	Allow temporary closures to motorized vehicle use in areas that pose public health and safety risks, and/or where resource damage is imminent. In PHMA and GHMA, temporary closures will be considered in accordance with 43 CFR subpart 8364 (Closures and Restrictions); 43 CFR subpart 8351 (Designated National Area); 43 CFR subpart 6302 (Use of Wilderness Areas, Prohibited Acts, and Penalties); 43 CFR subpart 8341 (Conditions of Use). Temporary closure or restriction orders under these authorities are enacted at the discretion of the authorized officer to resolve management conflicts and protect persons, property, and public lands and resources. Where an authorized officer determines that off-highway vehicles are causing or will cause considerable adverse effects upon soil, vegetation, wildlife, wildlife habitat, cultural resources, historical resources, threatened or endangered species, wilderness suitability, other authorized uses, or other resources, the affected areas shall be immediately closed to the type(s) of vehicle causing the adverse effect until the adverse effects are eliminated and measures implemented to prevent recurrence. (43 CFR 8341.2) A closure or restriction order should be considered only after other management strategies and alternatives have been explored. The duration of temporary closure or restriction orders should be limited to 24 months or less; however, certain situations may require longer closures and/or iterative temporary closures. This may include closure of routes or areas.
6051	To protect resource values, until each route is designated as open or closed in a corresponding travel management plan, motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails on approximately 1,955.943 acres of BLM-administered land in the Planning Area (Map 72).
LAND RESOURCES – RECREATION	
6059	Manage recreational use to maintain or improve wetland habitat conditions along intensively used streams and reservoirs, consistent with the <i>Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands</i> or other guidance (see Appendix N).
6061	Design recreational sites, recreation facility development, and recreational access to avoid riparian habitat areas or develop and manage them in a manner that minimizes effects on riparian habitats. In PHMAS, do not construct new recreation facilities (e.g., campgrounds, trails, trailheads, staging areas) unless the development would have a net conservation gain to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat (such as concentrating recreation, diverting use away from important habitat areas, etc.), or unless the development is required for visitor health and safety or resource protection.
LAND RESOURCES – LIVESTOCK GRAZING MANAGEMENT	
6267	In cooperation, consultation, and coordination with permittees/lessees, cooperators, and interested public, develop and implement appropriate livestock grazing management actions to enhance land health, improve forage for livestock, and meet other multiple use objectives by using the Wyoming Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management, other appropriate BMPs (see Appendices L and W), and development of appropriate range improvements. The BLM will prioritize (1) the review of grazing permits/leases, in particular to determine if modification is necessary prior to renewal, and (2) the processing of grazing permits/leases in PHMAS. In setting workload priorities, precedence will be given to existing permits/leases in these areas not meeting Land Health Standards, with focus on those containing riparian areas, including wet meadows. The BLM may use other criteria for prioritization to respond to urgent natural resource concerns (ex., fire) and legal obligations.
6271	Utilize a rangeland health assessment, resource monitoring, or analysis to determine if livestock grazing adjustments in amounts, kinds, or season are necessary. The NEPA analysis for renewals and modifications of livestock grazing permits/leases that include lands within PHMAS will include specific management thresholds based on Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Objectives Table and Land Health Standards (43 CFR 4180.2) and one or more defined responses that will allow the authorizing officer to make adjustments to livestock grazing that have already been subjected to NEPA analysis.
6274	Vary the intensity of livestock grazing monitoring, with higher priority given to “I” category allotments and those allotments not meeting land health standards due to livestock grazing.
6276	Apportion additional sustained yield forage, based on monitoring, to satisfy suspended permitted use of permittees/lessees in the allotment and to meet multiple-use objectives where the forage is available.

Table 2-4. BLM Proposed Plan for Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management (Continued)

Record #	Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
6277	On a case-by-case basis, allow issuance of permits/leases for livestock grazing for parcels that are not included in a grazing allotment, and where such permits/leases are not issued, allocate forage on such parcels to meet other multiple-use objectives.
6278	Establish and manage future reserve common allotments as opportunities arise within the Planning Area on a voluntary basis, plus establish and manage reserve common allotments on abandoned allotments on a case-by-case basis and attempt to utilize each allotment at least every five years. At the time a permittee or lessee voluntarily relinquishes a permit or lease, the BLM will consider whether the public lands where that permitted use was authorized should remain available for livestock grazing or be used for other resource management objectives, such as reserve common allotments or fire breaks.
6279	Prohibit the placement of salt, mineral, or forage supplements within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of water, wetlands, riparian areas, reclaimed or reforested areas, or as determined by the authorized officer.
6281	Design range improvement projects, including vegetation treatments, to meet multiple-use objectives, mitigate impacts to other resource values, and meet allotment management objectives.
6283	Allotments within PHMAs, focusing on those containing riparian areas, including wet meadows, will be prioritized for field checks to help ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the grazing permits. Field checks could include monitoring for actual use, utilization, and use supervision.
SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS – ACECS – PROPOSED GREATER SAGE-GROUSE PRIORITY HABITAT AREA ACECS	
7179	No ACEC would be designated, however, implement mitigation and minimization guidelines and required design features, including specific measures for greater sage-grouse (refer to Appendix I). Incorporate greater sage-grouse specific measures into project proposals as required design features or mitigation for any authorized federal action, regardless of surface ownership. Require the development of a wildlife resource monitoring and mitigation plan to address potential impacts from mineral development on wildlife populations and/or habitat on a case-by-case basis.
7230	No ACEC would be designated, except using the following travel management criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• During subsequent travel management planning, all routes within PHMAs would undergo a route evaluation to determine its purpose and need and the potential resource and/or user conflicts from motorized travel. Where resource and/or user conflicts outweigh the purpose and need for the route, the route would be considered for closure or considered for relocation outside of sensitive greater sage-grouse habitat.• During implementation-level travel planning, threats to greater sage-grouse and their habitat would be considered when evaluating route designations and/or closures.• During subsequent travel management planning, routes within PHMAs that do not have a purpose or need would be considered for closure.• During subsequent travel management planning, routes within PHMAs that are duplicative parallel, or redundant would be considered for closure.• During subsequent travel management planning, OHV timing limitations would be considered in important seasonal habitats where OHV use is a threat.• During subsequent travel management planning, consider limiting snow machine travel to designated routes or consider seasonal closures in greater sage-grouse wintering areas from November 1 through March 31.• During subsequent travel management planning, routes in PHMAs not required for public access or recreation with a current administrative/agency purpose or need would be evaluated for administrative access only.• During subsequent travel management planning, prioritize restoration of routes not designated in a Travel Management Plan within PHMAs.• During subsequent travel management planning, consider using seed mixes or transplant techniques that will maintain or enhance greater sage-grouse habitat when rehabilitating linear disturbances.• During subsequent travel management planning, consider scheduling road maintenance to avoid disturbance during sensitive periods and times to the extent practicable. Use time of day limits (after 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM) to reduce impacts on greater sage-grouse during breeding and nesting periods.

Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management

Table 2-4. BLM Proposed Plan for Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management (Continued)

Record #	Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
7287	<p>The Greater Sage-Grouse adaptive management plan provides regulatory assurance that unintended negative impacts to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat will be addressed before consequences become severe or irreversible.</p> <p>Adaptive management triggers are essential for identifying when potential management changes are needed in order to continue meeting Greater Sage-Grouse conservation objectives. With respect to sage-grouse, all regulatory entities in Wyoming, including the BLM and FS, use soft and hard triggers. Soft and hard triggers are focused on three metrics: 1) number of active leks; 2) acres of available habitat; and 3) population trends based on annual lek counts. See Appendix Y for more information on soft and hard triggers.</p> <p>Soft Triggers Response</p> <p>Soft triggers require immediate monitoring and surveillance to determine causal factors and may require curtailment of activities in the short or long term, as allowed by law. The project level adaptive management strategies will identify appropriate responses where the project's activities are identified as the causal factor. The management agency (BLM and/or FS) and the adaptive management working group will implement an appropriate response strategy to address causal factors not attributable to a specific project or to make adjustments at a larger regional or statewide level.</p> <p>Hard Trigger Response</p> <p>Upon determination that a hard trigger has been tripped, the BLM and/or USFS will immediately defer issuance of discretionary authorizations for new actions within the Biologically Significant Unit for a period of 90 days. In addition, within 14 days of a determination that a hard trigger has been tripped, the AMWG will convene to develop an interim response strategy and initiate an assessment to determine the causal factor or factors (hereafter called the causal factor assessment).</p>

ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern	GHMA	General Habitat Management Area
APD	Application for Permit to Drill	HMA	Herd Management Area
BLM	Bureau of Land Management	NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
BOR	Bureau of Reclamation	NSO	no surface occupancy
CBNG	coalbed natural gas	OHV	off-highway vehicle
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	PFC	proper Functioning Condition
COA	Conditions of Approval	PHMA	Priority Habitat Management Area
COT	Conservation Objectives Team	TLS	timing limitations
DDCT	Density of Disturbance Calculation Tool	U.S.C.	United States Code
DEQ	Department of Environmental Quality	USFS	United States Forest Service
DOI	Department of the Interior	USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
DPC	desired plant community	WGFD	Wyoming Game and Fish Department
FMP	Fire Management Plan	WQD	Water Quality Division
FRCC	Fire Regime Condition Class	WSR	Wild and Scenic River

2.3.5 Adaptive Management Strategy for Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management

Adaptive Management is a decision process that promotes flexible resource management that can be adjusted in the face of uncertainties as outcomes from management actions and other events become better understood. Careful monitoring of these outcomes advances scientific understanding and guides subsequent refinements in resource management as part of an iterative learning process. Adaptive management also recognizes the importance of natural variability in contributing to ecological resilience and productivity. It is not a ‘trial and error’ process, but rather emphasizes learning while doing. Adaptive management does not represent an end in itself, but rather a means to more effective decisions and enhanced benefits. On February 1, 2008, the Department of the Interior (DOI) published its Adaptive Management Implementation Policy (522 DM 1).

In relation to the BLM’s National Greater Sage-grouse Planning Strategy, adaptive management will help identify if greater sage-grouse conservation measures presented in this EIS contain the needed level of certainty for effectiveness. Principles of adaptive management have been incorporated into the conservation measures provided in this EIS, thereby increasing the likelihood that they will be effective in reducing threats to greater sage-grouse in light of changing environmental and regulatory conditions. Appendix Y and Management Action 7287 provide the BLM’s adaptive management strategy for the Bighorn Basin RMP.

In making amendments to this plan, the BLM will coordinate with the USFWS as BLM continues to meet its objective of conserving, enhancing and restoring greater sage-grouse habitat by reducing, minimizing or eliminating threats to that habitat.

2.3.5.1 Adaptive Management and Monitoring

This EIS contains a monitoring framework plan (Appendix Y) that includes an effectiveness monitoring component. The agencies intend to use the data collected from the effectiveness monitoring to identify any changes in habitat conditions related to the goals and objectives of the plan and other range-wide conservation strategies (BLM 2004a; Stiver et al. 2006; USFWS 2013a). The information collected through the Monitoring Framework Plan outlined in Appendix Y will be used by the BLM to determine when hard and soft adaptive management triggers, as described below, have been met.

Adaptive Management Triggers

Adaptive management triggers are essential for identifying when potential management changes are needed in order to continue meeting greater sage-grouse conservation objectives. With respect to greater sage-grouse, all regulatory entities in Wyoming, including the BLM and USFS, use soft and hard triggers. Soft and hard triggers are focused on three metrics: 1) number of active leks, 2) acres of available habitat, and 3) population trends based on annual lek counts.

Soft Triggers

Soft triggers are indicators that management or specific activities may not be achieving the intended results of conservation action or that unanticipated changes to populations or habitats have occurred that have the potential to place habitats or populations at risk. The soft trigger is any deviation from normal trends in habitat or population in any given year. Metrics include, but are not limited to, annual lek counts, wing counts, aerial surveys, habitat monitoring, and DDCT evaluations. BLM and/or USFS

field offices, with the assistance of their respective land and resource management plan implementation groups, local Wyoming Game and Fish Department offices, and local sage-grouse working groups will evaluate the metrics with the Adaptive Management Working Group (AMWG) on an annual basis. The purpose of these strategies is to address localized greater sage-grouse population and habitat changes by providing the framework in which management will change if monitoring identifies negative population and habitat anomalies in order to avoid crossing a hard trigger threshold.

Hard Triggers

Hard triggers are indicators that management is not achieving desired conservation results. Hard triggers would be considered a catastrophic indicator that the species is not responding to conservation actions, or that a larger-scale impact or set of impacts is having a negative effect.

Within the range of normal population variables, hard triggers shall be determined to take effect when two of the three metrics exceeds 60 percent of normal variability for the area under management in a single year, or when any of the three metrics exceeds 40 percent of normal variability for a three year time period within a five-year range of analysis. A minimum of three consecutive years in a five-year period is used to determine trends (i.e., years 1-2-3, years 2-3-4, years 3-4-5). The hard trigger and the proposed management response to this trigger are presented in Management Action 7287 and in Appendix Y.

Adaptive Management Response

Soft Triggers Response

Soft triggers require immediate monitoring and surveillance to determine causal factors and may require curtailment of activities in the short- or long-term, as allowed by law. The project level adaptive management strategies will identify appropriate responses where the project's activities are identified as the causal factor. The management agency (BLM and/or USFS) and the AMWG will implement an appropriate response strategy to address causal factors not attributable to a specific project or to make adjustments at a larger regional or state-wide level.

Hard Trigger Response

Upon determination that a hard trigger has been tripped, the BLM and/or USFS will immediately defer issuance of discretionary authorizations for new actions for a period of 90 days. In addition, within 14 days of a determination that a hard trigger has been tripped, the AMWG will convene to develop an interim response strategy and initiate an assessment to determine the causal factor or factors (hereafter called the causal factor assessment).

An interim response strategy will be developed, and implemented to the extent permitted by law, within 90 days of determination that a hard trigger has been tripped. The technical team (see Appendix Y) will be consulted to identify the scope and scale of the interim strategy. Based on the recommendation of the AMWG, the BLM and/or USFS will implement an interim response strategy through an Instruction Memorandum or other management mechanisms to direct management until the causal factor(s) and appropriate response(s) can be determined. The interim response strategy will consist of appropriate management measures undertaken at the project stage, supported by the best available science, to address the specific metric which has been tripped and may include deferral of some activities as appropriate. Measures that were analyzed in this EIS and the COT, NTT reports, and National Policy Team guidance will be reviewed in addition to current science to identify the most appropriate measures to be implemented as part of the interim response strategy. The BLM and/or

USFS will comply with all applicable law in implementing such response(s), and, if applicable, will undertake a plan amendment or revision under BLM and/or USFS's planning regulations and policies.

2.3.6 Regional Mitigation for Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management

Consistent with the proposed plan's goal outlined in Table 2-4 – BLM Proposed Plan for Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management, the intent of the Proposed Plan is to provide a net conservation gain to the species. To do so, in undertaking BLM management actions, and, consistent with valid existing rights and applicable law, in authorizing third party actions that result in habitat loss and degradation in PHMA, the BLM will require and ensure mitigation that provides a net conservation gain to the species including accounting for any uncertainty associated with the effectiveness of such mitigation. This will be achieved by avoiding, minimizing, and compensating for impacts by applying beneficial mitigation actions. This is also consistent with BLM Manual 6840 – Special Status Species Management, Section 02B, which states “to initiate proactive conservation measures that reduce or eliminate threats to Bureau sensitive species to minimize the likelihood of the need for listing of these species under the ESA (BLM2008e).”

2.3.6.1 Mitigation Standards

In implementing BLM management actions, and, consistent with valid existing rights and applicable law, in authorizing third party actions that result in habitat loss and degradation in PHMA, the BLM will require and ensure mitigation that provides a net conservation gain to the species including accounting for any uncertainty associated with the effectiveness of such mitigation. This will be achieved by avoiding, minimizing, and compensating for impacts by applying beneficial mitigation actions.

Mitigation will follow the regulations from the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) (40 CFR 1508.20; e.g., avoid, minimize, and compensate), hereafter referred to as the mitigation hierarchy. If impacts from BLM management actions and authorized third party actions that result in habitat loss and degradation remain after applying avoidance and minimization measures (i.e., residual impacts), then compensatory mitigation projects will be used to provide a net conservation gain to the species. Any compensatory mitigation will be durable, timely, and in addition to that which would have resulted without the compensatory mitigation (see the concepts of durability, timeliness, and additionality, as described further in Appendix Y).

2.3.6.2 Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Team

The BLM will establish a WAFWA Management Zone Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Team (hereafter, Team) to help guide the conservation of greater sage-grouse within 90 days of the issuance of the Record of Decision. This Team will develop a WAFWA Management Zone Regional Mitigation Strategy (hereafter, Regional Mitigation Strategy). The Team will also compile and report on monitoring data (including data on habitat condition, population trends, and mitigation effectiveness) from States across the WAFWA Management Zone (see Monitoring section). Subsequently, the Team will use these data to either modify the appropriate Regional Mitigation Strategy or recommend adaptive management actions (see Adaptive Management section).

The BLM will invite governmental and Tribal partners to participate in this Team, including the State Wildlife Agency and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in compliance with the exemptions provided for committees defined in the Federal Advisory Committee Act and the regulations that implement that Act. The BLM will strive for a collaborative and unified approach between Federal agencies (e.g., FWS, BLM,

and USFS), Tribal governments, state and local government(s), and other stakeholders for greater sage-grouse conservation. The Team will provide advice, and will not make any decisions that impact Federal lands. The BLM will remain responsible for making decisions that affect Federal lands.

2.3.6.3 Developing a Regional Mitigation Strategy

The Team will develop a Regional Mitigation Strategy to inform the mitigation components of NEPA analyses for BLM management actions and third party actions that result in habitat loss and degradation. The Regional Mitigation Strategy will be developed within one year of the issuance of the Record of Decision. The BLM's Regional Mitigation Manual MS-1794 will serve as a framework for developing the Regional Mitigation Strategy. The Regional Mitigation Strategy will be applicable to the States/BLM Field Offices/ USFS-administered land within the WAFWA Management Zone's boundaries.

Regional mitigation is a landscape-scale approach to mitigating impacts to resources. This involves anticipating future mitigation needs and strategically identifying mitigation sites and measures that can provide a net conservation gain to the species. The Regional Mitigation Strategy developed by the Team will elaborate on the components identified above (i.e., avoidance, minimization, and compensation; additionally, timeliness, and durability) and further explained in Appendix Y.

In the time period before the Regional Mitigation Strategy is developed, BLM will consider regional conditions, trends, and sites, to the greatest extent possible, when applying the mitigation hierarchy and will ensure that mitigation is consistent with the standards set forth in the first paragraph of this section.

2.3.6.4 Incorporating the Regional Mitigation Strategy into NEPA Analyses

The BLM will include the avoidance, minimization, and compensatory recommendations from the Regional Mitigation Strategy in one or more of the NEPA analysis' alternatives for BLM management actions and third party actions that result in habitat loss and degradation. The appropriate mitigation actions will be carried forward into the decision.

2.3.6.5 Implementing a Compensatory Mitigation Program

Consistent with the principles identified above, the BLM needs to ensure that compensatory mitigation is strategically implemented to provide a net conservation gain to the species, as identified in the Regional Mitigation Strategy. In order to align with existing compensatory mitigation efforts, this compensatory mitigation program will be implemented at a state level (as opposed to a WAFWA Management Zone, a BLM Field Office, or USFS-administered land), in collaboration with our partners (e.g., federal, tribal, and state agencies).

To ensure transparent and effective management of the compensatory mitigation funds, the BLM will enter into a contract or agreement with a third-party to help manage the state-level compensatory mitigation funds, within one year of the issuance of the Record of Decision. The selection of the third-party compensatory mitigation administrator will conform to all relevant laws, regulations, and policies. The BLM will remain responsible for making decisions that affect federal lands.

2.3.7 Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Objectives

The Habitat Objectives for Greater Sage-Grouse (Table 2-5) are a list of indicators and values that describe greater sage-grouse seasonal habitat conditions. The values for the indicators were derived using a synthesis of current local and regional greater sage-grouse habitat research and data and reflect variability of ecological sites. The habitat cover indicators are consistent with existing indicators used by the BLM.

When determining if a site is meeting habitat objectives, the measurements from that particular site will be assessed based on the range of values for the indicators in the habitat objectives table. The habitat objectives table is one component of greater sage-grouse multi-scale habitat assessment (see Monitoring Framework, Appendix Y). The results of the habitat assessment will be used during the land health evaluation to ascertain if the land health standard applicable to greater sage-grouse habitat (e.g., special status species habitat standard) is being met.

When authorizing activities in greater sage-grouse habitat, the BLM will consider if habitat objectives are being achieved. If the habitat objectives are not being achieved, and the site has the potential for achieving these objectives, the BLM will determine the causal factor(s) and make the necessary management adjustments to address the causal factor(s), following current BLM regulations and policy.

Incorporate Greater Sage-Grouse Seasonal Habitat Objectives (Table 2-5) into the design of projects or activities, as appropriate, based on ecological site potential unless the NEPA analysis associated with the specific project can demonstrate other appropriate habitat conditions based on other factors such as:

- A specific objective is not applicable to the site-specific conditions of the project or activity;
- An alternative objective is determined to provide equal or better protection for greater sage-grouse or its habitat (based on appropriate scientific findings);
- Analysis concludes that following a specific objective would provide no more protection to greater sage-grouse or its habitat than not following it, for the project being proposed; or
- Achievement of fuels management objectives require additional reduction in sagebrush cover to meet strategic protection of greater sage-grouse habitat and conserve habitat quality for the species.

The habitat objectives in Table 2-5 summarize the characteristics that research has found represent the seasonal habitat needs for greater sage-grouse. The specific seasonal components identified in Table 2-5 were adjusted based on local science and monitoring data to define the range of characteristics used in this subregion. Thus, the habitat objectives provide the broad vegetative conditions we strive to obtain across the landscape that indicate the seasonal habitats used by sage-grouse. These habitat indicators are consistent with the rangeland health indicators used by the BLM.

The habitat objectives will be part of the sage-grouse habitat assessment to be used during land health evaluations (see Monitoring Framework, Appendix Y). These habitat objectives are not obtainable on every acre within the designated greater sage-grouse habitat management areas. Therefore, the determination on whether the objectives have been met will be based on the specific site's ecological ability to meet the desired condition identified in the table.

All BLM use authorizations will contain terms and conditions regarding the actions needed to meet or progress toward meeting the habitat objectives. If monitoring data show the habitat objectives have not been met nor progress being made towards meeting them, there will be an evaluation and a determination made as to the cause. If it is determined that the authorized use is a cause, the use will be adjusted by the response specified in the instrument that authorized the use.

This information should not be viewed as providing standards by which to judge the overall quality of sagebrush habitats. Instead, these sage-grouse habitat characteristics should be used as one tool for assessing habitats and guiding management actions. There is a tendency to review each indicator and its suitability category independently, but site suitability is determined by the relationship among the several indicator values in each matrix and the relative abundance of habitat types across the landscape. It is important to understand that the desired conditions described for these habitat types are based on average plant productivity and structural data and expert opinion relative to sage-grouse use of a subset of sagebrush communities and they may not apply to all sagebrush communities in the planning area variation (Davies et al. 2006). These measures also do not account for inter-annual climate variation (Davies et al. 2006). Individual indicator values do not define site suitability and overall site suitability descriptions require an interpretation of the relationships between the indicators and other factors. Professional expertise and judgment are required. Measurement of these objectives will follow the steps described in the Habitat Assessment Framework for Fourth Order Habitat Descriptions (Appendix Y).

As described above the identified habitat objectives are averages and will vary based on the individual ecological sites and their potential. Ecological sites are the basic component of a land-type classification system that describes ecological potential and ecosystem dynamics of land areas. All land/land use types are identified within the ecological site system, including rangeland, pasture, and forest land. An ecological site is defined as a distinctive kind of land with specific soil and physical characteristics that differ from other kinds of land in its ability to produce a distinctive kind and amount of vegetation and its ability to respond similarly to management actions and natural disturbances. Lands are classified considering discrete physical and biotic factors. Physical factors include soils, climate, hydrology, geology, and physiographic features. Biotic factors include plant species occurrence, plant community compositions, annual biomass production, wildlife-vegetation interactions, and other factors. Ecological dynamics, primarily disturbance regimes, such as grazing; fire; drought; management actions; and all resulting interactions are also a primary factor of ecological sites. Information and data pertaining to a particular ecological site is organized into a reference document known as an Ecological Site Description (ESD). ESDs function as a primary repository of ecological knowledge regarding an ecological site. ESDs are maintained on the NRCS Ecological Site Information System, which is the repository for information associated with ESDs and the collection of all site data (<https://esis.sc.egov.usda.gov/Welcome/pgESDWelcome.aspx>). The ESD can help interpret if a site's potential is less than or greater than the identified habitat objectives.

In addition to the references identified in Table 2-5, the Conservation Plans developed for each of the Wyoming Local Sage-Grouse Working Groups will be consulted to identify specific habitat objectives appropriate for site-specific conditions. The Conservation Plans, updated in March 2014, are available on the Wyoming Game and Fish Department website at: <https://wgfd.wyo.gov/web2011/wildlife-1000817.aspx>.

Table 2-5. Greater Sage-Grouse Seasonal Habitat Objectives

Attribute	Indicators	Desired Condition	Reference
Breeding and Nesting (Seasonal Use Period March 1-June 15)			
Lek Security	Proximity of trees	Trees absent or uncommon on shrub/grassland ecological sites within 1.8 miles (approximately 3 km) of occupied leks.	Doherty. 2008. Sage-grouse and Energy Development: Integrating Science with Conservation Planning to Reduce Impacts. Holloran and Anderson. 2005. Spatial Distribution of Greater Sage-grouse nests in relatively contiguous sagebrush habitats.
	Proximity of sagebrush to leks	Adjacent protective sagebrush cover within 330 feet (approx. 100 m) of an occupied lek.	Baruch-Mordo, S., J.S. Evans, J.P. Severson, D.E. Naugle, J.D. Maestas, J.M. Kiesecker, M.J. Falkowski, C.A. Hagen, and K.P. Reese. 2013. Saving sage-grouse from trees. Sliver, S.J., E.T. Rinkes, D.E. Naugle, P.D. Makela, D.A. Nance, and J.W. Karl. In Press. Sage-Grouse Habitat Assessment Framework: Multi-scale Habitat Assessment Tool. Bureau of Land Management and Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Technical Reference XXXX-X. U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Denver, Colorado.
Cover	Percent of seasonal habitat meeting desired conditions	Greater than 80 percent of the nesting habitat meets the recommended vegetation characteristics, where appropriate (relative to ecological site potential, etc.).	Connelly, J.W., M.A. Schroeder, A.R. Sands, and C.E. Braun. 2000. Guidelines to manage sage-grouse populations and their habitats. Wildlife Society Bulletin 28:967-985.
	Sagebrush cover ²	5 to 25 percent	Connelly, J.W., M.A. Schroeder, A.R. Sands, and C.E. Braun. 2000. Guidelines to manage sage-grouse populations and their habitats. Wildlife Society Bulletin 28:967-985. Connelly, J.W., K.P. Reese, and M.A. Schroeder. 2003. Monitoring of Greater sage-grouse habitats and populations. University of Idaho College of Natural Resources Experiment Station Bulletin 80. University of Idaho, Moscow, ID.
	Sagebrush height Arid sites ³ Mesic sites ⁴	4-31 inches (10.6-80 cm) 12-31 inches (30.5-80 cm)	Hagen, C.A., J.W. Connelly, and M.A. Schroeder. 2007. A meta-analysis of greater sage-grouse <i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i> nesting and brood-rearing habitats. Wildlife Biology 13 (Supplement 1):42-50. Connelly, J.W., M.A. Schroeder, A.R. Sands, and C.E. Braun. 2000. Guidelines to manage sage-grouse populations and their habitats. Wildlife Society Bulletin 28:967-985.
	Predominant sagebrush shape	Predominantly spreading shape ⁵	Sliver, S.J., E.T. Rinkes, D.E. Naugle, P.D. Makela, D.A. Nance, and J.W. Karl. In Press. Sage-Grouse Habitat Assessment Framework: Multi-scale Habitat Assessment Tool. Bureau of Land Management and Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Technical Reference XXXX-X. U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Denver, Colorado.

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Table 2-5. Greater Sage-Grouse Seasonal Habitat Objectives (Continued)

Attribute	Indicators	Desired Condition	Reference
	Perennial grass cover ² Arid sites ³ Mesic sites ⁴	Greater than or equal to 10 percent Greater than or equal to 15 percent Cool-season bunchgrasses preferred	Connelly, J.W., M.A. Schroeder, A.R. Sands, and C.E. Braun. 2000. Guidelines to manage sage-grouse populations and their habitats. <i>Wildlife Society Bulletin</i> 28:967-985. Stiver, S.J., E.T. Rinkes, D.E. Naugle, P.D. Makela, D.A. Nance, and J.W. Karl. In Press. Sage-Grouse Habitat Assessment Framework: Multi-scale Habitat Assessment Tool. Bureau of Land Management and Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Technical Reference XXXX-X. U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Denver, Colorado.
			Cagney J., E. Bainter, B. Budd, T. Christiansen, V. Herren, M. Holloran, B. Rashford, M. Smith and J. Williams. 2010. Grazing influence, objective development, and management in Wyoming's greater sage-grouse habitat. University of Wyoming College of Agriculture Extension Bulletin B-1203. Laramie.
Perennial grass and forb height		Adequate nest cover greater than or equal to 6 inches or as determined by ESD site potential and local variability.	Connelly, J.W., M.A. Schroeder, A.R. Sands, and C.E. Braun. 2000. Guidelines to manage sage-grouse populations and their habitats. <i>Wildlife Society Bulletin</i> 28:967-985. Connelly, J.W., K.P. Reese, and M.A. Schroeder. 2003. Monitoring of Greater sage-grouse habitats and populations. University of Idaho College of Natural Resources Experiment Station Bulletin 80. University of Idaho, Moscow, ID. Doherty, K.E., D.E. Naugle, J.D. Tack, B.L. Walker, J.M. Graham and J.L. Beck. 2014. Linking Conservation Actions to Demography: Grass Height Explains Variation in Greater Sage-grouse Nest Survival. <i>Wildlife Biology</i> . 20(6): 320-325. Hagen, C.A., J.W. Connelly, and M.A. Schroeder. 2007. A meta-analysis of greater sage-grouse <i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i> nesting and brood-rearing habitats. <i>Wildlife Biology</i> 13 (Supplement 1):42-50. Stiver, S.J., E.T. Rinkes, D.E. Naugle, P.D. Makela, D.A. Nance, and J.W. Karl. In Press. Sage-Grouse Habitat Assessment Framework: Multi-scale Habitat Assessment Tool. Bureau of Land Management and Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Technical Reference XXXX-X. U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Denver, Colorado.
Perennial forb cover ²	Perennial forb cover ² Arid sites ³ Mesic sites ⁴	Greater than or equal to 5 percent Greater than or equal to 10 percent	Connelly, J.W., M.A. Schroeder, A.R. Sands, and C.E. Braun. 2000. Guidelines to manage sage-grouse populations and their habitats. <i>Wildlife Society Bulletin</i> 28:967-985.

Table 2-5. Greater Sage-Grouse Seasonal Habitat Objectives (Continued)

Attribute	Indicators	Desired Condition	Reference
Brood Rearing/Summer (Seasonal Use Period June 16-October 31)¹			
Cover	Percent of seasonal habitat meeting desired condition	Greater than 40 percent of the summer/brood habitat meets recommended brood habitat characteristics where appropriate (relative to ecological site potential, etc.).	Connelly, J.W., M.A. Schroeder, A.R. Sands, and C.E. Braun. 2000. Guidelines to manage sage-grouse populations and their habitats. <i>Wildlife Society Bulletin</i> 28:967-985.
Sagebrush cover ²	5-25 percent		Connelly, J.W., M.A. Schroeder, A.R. Sands, and C.E. Braun. 2000. Guidelines to manage sage-grouse populations and their habitats. <i>Wildlife Society Bulletin</i> 28:967-985.
Sagebrush height	4 to 32 inches (10.6-80 cm)		Connelly, J.W., M.A. Schroeder, A.R. Sands, and C.E. Braun. 2000. Guidelines to manage sage-grouse populations and their habitats. <i>Wildlife Society Bulletin</i> 28:967-985.
Perennial grass cover and forbs ²	Greater than or equal to 5 percent arid sites Greater than or equal to 10 percent mesic sites		Connelly, J.W., M.A. Schroeder, A.R. Sands, and C.E. Braun. 2000. Guidelines to manage sage-grouse populations and their habitats. <i>Wildlife Society Bulletin</i> 28:967-985.
Riparian areas/mesic meadows ²	Proper Functioning Condition		Preferred forbs are listed in Stiver et al. In press. Overall total forb cover may be greater than that of preferred forb cover since not all forb species are listed as preferred.
Upland and riparian perennial forb availability	Preferred forbs are common with several preferred species present		Stiver, S.J., E.T. Rinkes, D.E. Naugle, P.D. Makela, D.A. Nance, and J.W. Karl. In Press. Sage-Grouse Habitat Assessment Framework: Multi-scale Habitat Assessment Tool. Bureau of Land Management and Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Technical Reference XXXX-X. U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Denver, Colorado.
Winter (Seasonal Use Period November 1-February 28)¹			
Cover and Food	Percent of seasonal habitat meeting desired conditions	Greater than 80 percent of the wintering habitat meets winter habitat characteristics where appropriate (relative to ecological site, etc.).	Connelly, J.W., M.A. Schroeder, A.R. Sands, and C.E. Braun. 2000. Guidelines to manage sage-grouse populations and their habitats. <i>Wildlife Society Bulletin</i> 28:967-985.
Sagebrush cover above snow ²	Greater than 5 percent		Connelly, J.W., M.A. Schroeder, A.R. Sands, and C.E. Braun. 2000. Guidelines to manage sage-grouse populations and their habitats. <i>Wildlife Society Bulletin</i> 28:967-985.
Sagebrush height above snow	Greater than 10 inches (greater than 25cm)		Stiver, S.J., E.T. Rinkes, D.E. Naugle, P.D. Makela, D.A. Nance, and J.W. Karl. In Press. Sage-Grouse Habitat Assessment Framework: Multi-scale Habitat Assessment Tool. Bureau of Land Management and Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Technical Reference XXXX-X. U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Denver, Colorado.
			Connelly, J.W., M.A. Schroeder, A.R. Sands, and C.E. Braun. 2000. Guidelines to manage sage-grouse populations and their habitats. <i>Wildlife Society Bulletin</i> 28:967-985.

Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management

Table 2-5. Greater Sage-Grouse Seasonal Habitat Objectives (Continued)

Attribute	Indicators	Desired Condition	Reference
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Note: All Desired Conditions will be dependent upon site capability and local variation (e.g., weather patterns, localized drought, ESP, state, etc.)

¹Seasonal dates can be adjusted by local unit according to geographic region.

²Absolute cover is the actual recorded cover and can exceed 100% when recorded across all species and all layers. It is not relative cover, which is the proportions of each species, and equals 100%. Note that cover is reported for only those species (e.g., sagebrush, preferred forbs) that are sampled to determine suitability of habitat for sage-grouse. Overall cover at the site will be greater than that sampled for sage-grouse habitat, due to other species present.

³Arid corresponds to the 10 – 12 inch precipitation zone; *Artemesia tridentata vaseyana* is a common big sagebrush sub-species for this type site (Stiver et al. *In Press*).

⁴Mesic corresponds to the ≥12 inch precipitation zone; *Artemesia tridentata vaseyana* is a common big sagebrush sub-species for this type site (Stiver et al. *In Press*).

⁵Collectively the indicators for sagebrush (cover, height, and shape), perennial grass and perennial forb (cover, height and/or availability) represent the desired condition range for nesting/early brood rearing habitat characteristics, consistent with the breeding habitat suitability matrix identified in Stiver et al. *In Press*. Sagebrush plants that are more tree or columnar-shaped provide less protective cover near the ground than sagebrush plants with a spreading shape (Stiver et al. *In Press*). Some sagebrush plants are naturally columnar (e.g., Great Basin big sagebrush), and a natural part of the plant community. However, a predominance of columnar shape arising from animal impacts may warrant management investigation or adjustments at site specific scales.

⁶Preferred forbs are listed in Stiver et al. *In press*. Overall total forb cover may be greater than that of preferred forb cover since not all forb species are listed as preferred.

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2.3.8 Monitoring Framework for Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management

The BLM's planning regulations, specifically 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1610.4-9, require that land use plans establish intervals and standards for monitoring based on the sensitivity of the resource decisions. Land use plan monitoring is the process of tracking the implementation of land use plan decisions (implementation monitoring) and collecting data/information necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of land use plan decisions (effectiveness monitoring). For greater sage-grouse, these types of monitoring are also described in the criteria found in the Policy for Evaluation of Conservation Efforts When Making Listing Decisions (50 CFR Vol. 68, No. 60). One of the Policy for Evaluation of Conservation Efforts When Making Listing Decisions criteria evaluates whether provisions for monitoring and reporting progress on implementation (based on compliance with the implementation schedule) and effectiveness (based on evaluation of quantifiable parameters) of the conservation effort are provided.

A guiding principle in the BLM National Sage-grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy (BLM 2004a) is that "the Bureau is committed to sage-grouse and sagebrush conservation and will continue to adjust and adapt our National Sage-grouse Strategy as new information, science, and monitoring results evaluate effectiveness over time." In keeping with the WAFWA Sage-grouse Comprehensive Conservation Strategy (Stiver et al. 2006) and the Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Objectives: Final Report (USFWS 2013a), the BLM and USFS will monitor implementation and effectiveness of conservation measures in greater sage-grouse habitats.

On March 5, 2010, USFWS' 12-Month Findings for Petitions to List the greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) as threatened or endangered were posted as a *Federal Register* notice (75 Federal Register 13910-14014, March 23, 2010). This notice stated:

"...the information collected by BLM could not be used to make broad generalizations about the status of rangelands and management actions. There was a lack of consistency across the range in how questions were interpreted and answered for the data call, which limited our ability to use the results to understand habitat conditions for sage-grouse on BLM lands."

Standardization of monitoring methods and implementation of a defensible monitoring approach (within and across jurisdictions) will resolve this situation. The BLM, USFS, and other conservation partners use the resulting information to guide implementation of conservation activities.

Monitoring strategies for greater sage-grouse habitat and populations must be collaborative, as habitat occurs across jurisdictional boundaries (52 percent on BLM-administered lands, 31 percent on private lands, 8 percent on National Forest System lands, 5 percent on state lands, 4 percent on tribal and other federal lands) (75 *Federal Register* 13910, March 23, 2010). Because state fish and wildlife agencies have primary responsibility for population-level wildlife management, including population monitoring, population efforts will continue to be conducted in partnership with state fish and wildlife agencies. The BLM and USFS have finalized a monitoring framework, which can be found in Appendix Y. This framework describes the process that the BLM and USFS will use to monitor implementation and effectiveness of RMP and/or LUP decisions. The monitoring framework includes methods, data standards, and intervals of monitoring at broad and mid scales; consistent indicators to measure and metric descriptions for each of the scales; analysis and reporting methods; and the incorporation of monitoring results into adaptive management. The need for fine-scale and site-specific habitat monitoring may vary by area depending on existing conditions, habitat variability, threats, and land health. Indicators at the fine and site scales will be consistent with the Habitat Assessment Framework; however, the values for the indicators could be adjusted for regional conditions.

More specifically, the framework discusses how the BLM and USFS will monitor and track implementation and effectiveness of planning decisions (e.g., tracking of waivers, modifications, site-level actions). The two agencies will monitor the effectiveness of RMP and/or LUP decisions in meeting management and conservation objectives. Effectiveness monitoring will include monitoring disturbance in habitats, as well as landscape habitat attributes. To monitor habitats, the BLM and USFS will measure and track attributes of, priority habitat, and general habitat at a broad scale, and attributes of habitat availability, patch size, connectivity, linkage/connectivity habitat, edge effect, and anthropogenic disturbances at a mid-scale. Disturbance monitoring will measure and track changes in the amount of sagebrush in the landscape and changes in the anthropogenic footprint, including changes in energy development density. The framework also includes methodology for analysis and reporting for field offices, states, ranger districts, BLM districts, National Forests, and Forest regions, including geospatial and tabular data for disturbance mapping (e.g., geospatial footprint of new permitted disturbances) and management actions effectiveness.

2.4 Alternatives Considered But Not Carried Forward for Detailed Analysis

The BLM considered several alternatives and management options as possible methods for resolving resource management issues and conflicts, but after further review and consideration, did not carry all of those forward for detailed analysis. The BLM did not carry forward for detailed analysis alternatives described in the following sections because (1) they would not fulfill requirements of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) or other existing laws or regulations, (2) they would not meet the purpose and need, (3) they were already part of an existing plan, policy, or administrative function, or (4) they did not fall within the limits of the planning criteria. The alternatives considered but not carried forward are grouped by resource topic, although several might apply to more than one resource.

2.4.1 Physical Resources

None of the alternatives considered and subsequently eliminated from detailed analysis addressed this resource.

2.4.2 Mineral Resources

Recommend Mineral Withdrawals across the Planning Area

The BLM considered, but eliminated from detailed analysis alternatives to recommend a withdrawal from appropriations under the mining laws for a large portion of the Planning Area because it found those alternatives to be overly restrictive and not reasonable in those areas. By law, an RMP cannot close an area to the operation of the Mining Laws – this can only be accomplished by withdrawal, which is a separate action BLM can recommend but must ultimately be taken at the Secretarial level.

Moreover, withdrawing the entire Planning Area would eliminate development in areas where conflicts can be mitigated or where conflicts do not exist, which would be inconsistent with the policy objectives of the Planning Area. Withdrawals should be justified in accordance with U.S. Department of the Interior's (DOI) 603 Departmental Manual 1 and withdrawal regulations at 43 CFR Part 2300.

Withdrawing a large portion of the Planning Area would conflict substantially with the goals and objectives for mineral resources and would require an extensive inventory and evaluation outside the

scope of this RMP and EIS of the current natural uses and values of the site and adjacent land, as well as an analysis of how those uses and values would be affected.

Suspend or Eliminate all Existing Federal Minerals Leasing

The BLM considered, but eliminated from detailed analysis, suspending or eliminating all existing federal minerals leasing and development operations and cancelling existing oil and gas leases. Under the FLPMA, the BLM must recognize all valid existing rights. The BLM can impose reasonable measures to the manner and pace of development; the BLM evaluates measures of this type under alternatives analyzed in detail. Alternatives analyzed in detail also evaluate locations in the Planning Area where the BLM would recommend a withdrawal from mineral entry.

Require Directional Drilling

Directional wells generally are used to complete zones not directly below the drilling rig. Current technologies, along with large reserves, make it possible, based on geological structure, to drill to a bottom hole location several miles from the surface location (for example, the Bakken formation found in parts of Montana and North Dakota).

In the Planning Area, circumstances might result in the need to drill a directional and/or horizontal well. Those circumstances could include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Adverse geologic and topographical features.
- The need to access more of the mineral resource.
- A high density of cultural and historic material requiring in-depth testing and excavation.
- National Historic Trails (NHTs) and Other Historic Trails viewshed considerations.
- Avoid critical habitats of threatened, endangered, or other special status species.
- To develop leases with a NSO restriction.

BLM considered an alternative that would require directional and/or horizontal drilling of all oil and gas wells in the Planning Area. The BLM eliminated that alternative from further consideration and detailed analysis for the following reasons:

- The BLM retains the authority to require directional and/or horizontal drilling or pad drilling from federal surface on a site-specific basis under all alternatives, when consistent with valid existing rights.
- The risk of losing the borehole due to technical drilling difficulties is higher for directional and/or horizontal wells than for vertical wells. In addition, directional and/or horizontal drilling technology requires precise control of target locations in three dimensions. In exploratory areas this information is usually not available. A requirement to drill directional and/or horizontal wells under these conditions would result in additional drilling costs, the loss of some wellbores, and more uneconomical wells drilled.
- Drilling and completion costs for directional and/or horizontal boreholes are higher than for conventional vertical boreholes and can substantially reduce a well's economic viability. Eustes (2003) identified these additional costs. The advantages and disadvantages of requiring directional and/or horizontal boreholes would need to be assessed well by well. In some circumstances, the potential for increased productivity of directional and/or horizontal

Alternatives Considered But Not Carried Forward for Detailed Analysis

boreholes can offset their additional drilling costs and risks, making these types of boreholes the preferable drilling option.

- Some of the oil and gas reservoirs now being developed in the Planning Area are multiple, vertically stacked, and discontinuous sandstones. These reservoirs are not good candidates for horizontal completion practices because their geology is such that a horizontal borehole might contact only one of the productive horizons, while a vertical borehole might be able to contact multiple horizons (depending on factors such as how the well is completed and the areal extent of the pool). A mandate requiring horizontal drilling would make many of these wells uneconomical to drill.

Experience and improved efficiency have caused the additional costs attributed to directional drilling and/or horizontal drilling to decrease. However, exclusive use of directional and/or horizontal drilling is not always necessary and could result in wells not being drilled and reserves not being recovered. This does not meet either the Nation's energy needs or result in the maximum ultimate recovery of the oil and gas resources with minimum waste, as required by regulation (43 CFR 3161.2).

Remove All Stipulations and Restrictions from Oil and Gas Leases

The BLM considered a request to remove all stipulations and restrictions from oil and gas leases. This alternative is unreasonable because it conflicts with the FLPMA Section 102(8) policy to manage the public lands to protect resource values. The BLM's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. This includes encouraging the use of sound resource management practices to restore and maintain land conditions. The BLM assesses and monitors resource conditions and trends and considers the best available information to either maintain or improve the health of the land to fulfill this mandate. Removing all stipulations and restrictions from oil and gas leases would impair the BLM's ability to fulfill its mission by eliminating its primary tool for managing potential effects from oil and gas development on public lands; such an alternative is, therefore, not consistent with the policy objectives of the area or feasible. For these reasons, the BLM eliminated this alternative from detailed analysis.

Phased Oil and Gas Development

The BLM considered an alternative that would regulate the rate of oil and gas development in the Planning Area, but determined that the holders of federal oil and gas leases have the right to develop those leases on the schedules they deem appropriate within regulatory limits. Federal regulations at 43 CFR 3160.1-2 state that "the lessee shall have the right to use so much of the leased lands as is necessary to explore for, drill for, mine, extract, and dispose of all the leased resource in a leasehold" The 43 CFR 3160 regulations also require lessees to attain maximum economic recovery of the leased resource and to conduct their operations in a manner that prevents undue and unnecessary damage to the environment. It is not possible at the RMP or leasing stages to determine whether a lease would actually be developed, or what well spacing or level of development would be necessary to achieve maximum economic recovery. Well spacing can vary from development area to development area, with some well fields efficiently developed at 1 well per square mile while others require up to 128 wells per square mile. Given the wide range of potential well spacing, the pace of development a lessee must maintain to meet the regulatory requirement of maximum economic recovery also greatly varies. Setting reduced or limited rates of development is more appropriately analyzed in project-/wellfield-specific NEPA documents; therefore, the BLM eliminated this alternative from detailed analysis.

Phased Oil and Gas Leasing

The BLM considered an alternative of phased leasing, especially along areas where conflict with other resources are anticipated to occur, such as bentonite and gypsum mine development or wildlife habitat. The BLM found this alternative unreasonable as 48 percent of the Planning Area is leased or non BLM-administered minerals. The scattered ownership pattern in the Bighorn Basin lends itself to drainage, and the BLM has responsibility to address drainage issues. Leasing is a discretionary action therefore the right to phase leases is retained under all alternatives.

No New Oil and Gas Leasing

The BLM considered closing the entire Planning Area to new leasing of federal minerals, specifically oil and gas, as a method to resolve conflicts with other resource values and uses. The federal mineral estate in much of the Planning Area has already been leased (approximately 960,000 acres), and large portions of the area are developed (BLM 2008a). Although conflicts between oil and gas leasing and other resource values and uses do occur, closing the entire Planning Area to new oil and gas leasing would eliminate development and production activities in areas where conflicts can be effectively mitigated or where there would be no conflicts. The purpose of this RMP revision project is to ensure that public lands are managed according to the principles of multiple use identified in FLPMA while maintaining the valid existing rights and other obligations already established to address the changing needs of the Planning Area and resource conflicts. This alternative would eliminate development and production in areas where conflicts can be mitigated or where conflicts do not exist, which is inconsistent with the multiple-use policy objectives of the Planning Area. Public scoping comments indicate a growing level of concern with the rate and scale of oil and gas leasing and development in the Planning Area. Alternatives analyzed in detail address making portions of the Planning Area closed to oil and gas leasing in response to other identified resource needs. Over 59 percent (2,464,745 acres) of the federal mineral estate in the Planning Area was analyzed as closed to oil and gas leasing under alternatives B and E.

Require Reinjection of all Produced Water

The BLM considered requiring reinjection of all produced water. Under this alternative all produced water from both new and existing sources would be required to be captured and re-injected into an underground stratum. The BLM considered this alternative, but eliminated it from detailed analysis for several reasons, including responding to issues such as potential impacts to aquifers, soils, and the quantity and quality of surface water in and downstream of produced water discharges. The feasibility of an all reinjection alternative is unreasonable as produced water surface discharge from numerous oil and gas fields in the Planning Area has been authorized in the past and such authorizations remain valid. Further, not all stratum are of a type or quality that would permit reinjection. Requiring such reinjection of produced waters wholesale would also be outside of BLM's regulatory authority because all water in the state of Wyoming is owned by the state, and discharge of produced water is therefore under the jurisdiction of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Wyoming State Engineer's Office, and/or the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. BLM Instruction Memorandum (IM) WY-2005-14 addresses water disposal and land application. Under Alternative B, the BLM did analyze a management action prohibiting the authorization of new activities resulting in the surface discharge of produced water on BLM-administered land.

2.4.3 Fire and Fuels Management

None of the alternatives considered and subsequently eliminated from detailed analysis addressed this resource.

2.4.4 Biological Resources

Emphasize the Protection of Resources by Removing Human Uses

The BLM considered, but eliminated from further analysis, an alternative to emphasize the protection of resources by removing most, if not all, human uses because it would not respond to the purpose and need for the RMP revision. FLPMA requires the BLM to manage public lands and resources according to the principles of multiple use and sustained yield. Included in this requirement are human uses, such as mineral development or livestock grazing, that must be managed so as to account for other resource values, such as wilderness or wildlife resources. Alternatives considered in detail address management actions that include closure or prohibition of various resource uses over portions of the Planning Area.

Manage Herd Areas for Wild Horses within the Original Herd Area Boundaries

At present, the BLM manages only two Herd Management Areas (HMAs) for wild horses in the Planning Area: Fifteenmile and McCullough Peaks. In the remaining Herd Areas, the BLM has removed the wild horses and does not manage these areas for wild horses. Analysis for previous decisions determined that managing wild horses in these Herd Areas resulted in management issues or conflicts that were most appropriately resolved by the removal of wild horses. These decisions and findings remain valid because the resource conditions have not changed; information about the issues and conflicts associated with individual Herd Areas are available at the BLM Cody Field Office (CYFO) and Worland Field Office (WFO), and are summarized in Chapter 3 of this document. Management issues and conflicts that resulted in the removal of horses from these areas included horse trespass due to unfenced boundaries, forage and/or water competition with domestic livestock, and private landowner requests.

HMAs are the only administrative units the CYFO and WFO currently use to manage wild horses in the Planning Area. Alternatives considered in detail do include changing the administrative boundary of the existing HMAs without an increase in the number of horses.

Designation of a Wild Horse or Burro Range

The BLM considered, but eliminated from further analysis, the designation of the McCullough Peaks HMA as a Wild Horse or Burro Range in the Bighorn Basin RMP. BLM Handbook H-1601-1 states that an HMA may be considered for designation as a Wild Horse or Burro Range when there is a significant public value present, such as unique characteristics in a herd or an outstanding opportunity for public viewing. The McCullough Peaks HMA does not provide outstanding opportunities for public viewing or have significant public value present. Further, the BLM can achieve needed funding, additional protections, management opportunities, and additional public awareness of this resource under the existing HMA designation. Alternatives considered in detail do address viewing opportunities and additional protections for wild horses within the existing Fifteenmile and McCullough Peaks HMAs.

2.4.5 Heritage and Visual Resources

None of the alternatives considered and subsequently eliminated from detailed analysis addressed this resource.

2.4.6 Land Resources

Prohibit or Exclude Wind-Energy Development, Oil and Gas Leasing, Off-Highway Vehicle Use, and Livestock Grazing

The BLM considered requests to prohibit or exclude part or all of the Planning Area from wind-energy development, oil and gas leasing, off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, and livestock grazing. However, FLPMA requires that BLM manage public lands and resources according to the principles of multiple use and sustained yield, and the BLM eliminated from detailed review alternatives inconsistent with this multiple use mandate. However, alternatives analyzed in detail include limitations and restrictions on wind-energy development, oil and gas leasing, OHV use, and livestock grazing. Specifically, alternatives B and E include wind-energy development right-of-way (ROW) exclusion (1,244,948 acres) and avoidance (1,691,663 acres) areas, areas closed to oil and gas leasing (2,464,745 acres), and areas closed to livestock grazing (1,984,211 acres). The BLM recognizes that there are conflicts between resources and resource uses and considered these conflicts during alternatives development.

No Net Gain in BLM-administered Public Lands

The BLM considered an alternative with no net gain in BLM-administered public lands in the Planning Area. However, the BLM cannot guarantee there would be no net gain of public land, because individual land exchanges are based on equal monetary values of the land, not equal land acreages. Over the past 20 to 30 years in the Bighorn Basin and Wyoming in general, conveyances of various kinds have resulted in a net loss of public land. The BLM coordinates with affected counties and the public on all acquisitions. Current BLM policy establishes exchange as the favored method of land disposal/acquisition (BLM 1995) to minimize spending of taxpayer money and minimize effects to local tax base.

Limit Travel Only to Existing Roads and Trails

The BLM considered an alternative limiting travel to only existing roads and trails within the entire Planning Area, but eliminated it from detailed analysis. The BLM comprehensive travel and transportation management (CTTM) program is guided by resource values and user needs. A broad travel designation for the entire Planning Area would not fulfill the BLM's responsibility per 43 CFR 8341.1 to base travel management designations on the protection of the resources of the public lands, the promotion of the safety of all the users of the public lands, and the minimization of conflicts among the various uses of the public lands. In addition, such an approach is inconsistent with BLM policy, specifically 1626—Travel and Transportation Manual (BLM2011c) and Handbook 8342.1; therefore such an alternative would not meet the purpose and need of the RMP revision. The BLM analyzes a reasonable range of travel management designations in the alternatives considered in detail.

No Livestock Grazing

Livestock grazing is a well-established use within the BLM's multiple-use mandate. The BLM considered an alternative that would make all 3.2 million acres of BLM-administered surface lands in the Planning

Alternatives Considered But Not Carried Forward for Detailed Analysis

Area unavailable for livestock grazing. This alternative was not analyzed in detail because such an alternative is not reasonable, viable, or necessary. Instead, and in accordance with BLM's Land Use Planning Handbook and BLM IM No. 2012-169, the BLM considered a range of alternatives with respect to both areas that are available or unavailable for livestock grazing on an area-wide basis. The range of alternatives considered includes a meaningful reduction in livestock grazing through a reduction in areas available to livestock grazing and forage allocation.

As discussed above, the BLM developed a range of alternatives that sharply defines the issues and provides a clear basis for choice among options by the decision-maker. The BLM analyzed closing 1,984,211 acres to livestock grazing under alternatives B and E to address identified unresolved conflicts concerning various uses of available resources including within elk and bighorn sheep winter range areas and the Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC.

In addition, all alternatives would allow the reduction or elimination of livestock grazing in specific situations where livestock grazing causes or contributes to conflicts with the protection or management of other resource values or uses. Such determinations would be made during site-specific activity planning and associated environmental review. These determinations would be based on several factors, including monitoring studies, review of current range management science, input from livestock operators and interested publics, and the ability to meet the standards in Appendix N.

In summary, current resource conditions on BLM-administered land, including range vegetation, watershed, and wildlife habitat, as reflected in land health assessments, do not warrant prohibition of livestock grazing throughout the entire Planning Area. Such a blanket prohibition, in the absence of resource conflicts, would not meet the purpose and need and would be inconsistent with the policy objectives of the area. However, as described above, the range of alternatives does include a meaningful reduction in grazing throughout the Planning Area.

No Net Loss of Grazing Animal Unit Months

The BLM considered an alternative that would ensure or require no net loss of grazing animal unit months (AUMs), but eliminated it from detailed analysis. The commitment to manage for no net loss of AUMs would conflict with 43 CFR 4110.3, which requires the BLM to periodically review permitted use specified in grazing permits or leases and make changes in the permitted use as needed to manage, maintain, or improve rangeland productivity, to assist in restoring ecosystems to PFC, to conform with land use plans, or to comply with the provisions of 43 CFR 4100, Subpart 4180-Fundamentals of Rangeland Health and Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration. In addition, there could be grazing reductions as a result of land being conveyed out of federal ownership.

Close all Big Game Crucial Winter Range to Livestock Grazing

The BLM considered, but eliminated from detailed analysis, an alternative to remove livestock grazing from all big game crucial winter range. When livestock and big game share the same habitat, there can be competition for forage. However, although big game and livestock might share the same habitat, they do not necessarily compete for the same forage. For species that do not compete for forage with livestock there are no forage-related conflicts between livestock grazing and these species that would be resolved by closing big game crucial winter range to livestock grazing. The BLM did analyze in detail an alternative to eliminate livestock grazing from bighorn sheep and elk crucial winter range because of competing forage needs between these species and livestock.

Open Off-Highway Vehicle “Play” Areas

The BLM evaluated proposals for designating areas as open to OHV use. Motorized vehicle travel is permitted year-round anywhere within an area designated as open to OHV use. Open designations are used for intensive OHV use areas where there are no special restrictions or where there are no compelling resource protection needs, user conflicts, or public safety issues to warrant limiting cross-country travel (see 43 CFR 8340.0-5) (BLM 2011c).

The BLM evaluated the following areas:

- Red Lake/Diamond Basin Area
- North Oregon Basin
- Garland Slopes Area
- McCullough Peaks Area
- Polecat Bench Area
- Bentonite Hills “Darnell’s Area”
- Lovell Motocross Track
- Cowley Hill Climb “Monsters Area”

The BLM identified user conflicts, public safety issues, and compelling resource protection needs including threatened and endangered species, greater sage-grouse habitat, cultural and historic features, crucial winter range, valid existing rights such as mining claims or active mining, and ongoing reclamation activities, all of which preclude an open designation for most of these areas at this time. A portion of the Red Lake, Bentonite Hills, and Lovell Motocross Track areas are included within the range of alternatives analyzed in detail. Should the issues listed above be resolved, the BLM may consider R&PP leases or amend the RMP.

2.4.7 Special Designations and Other Management Areas

Remove Existing Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

The BLM considered, but eliminated from detailed analysis, the removal of all existing ACECs in the Planning Area. The WFO and CYFO currently manage nine ACECs in the Planning Area under the existing plans. Additional areas were nominated for consideration as ACECs during the public and internal scoping process for this Proposed RMP and Final EIS. The BLM individually evaluated all existing and newly nominated areas to determine if they met the importance and relevance criteria required for ACEC designations. Based on this evaluation, consideration of planning issues, and input from the public and cooperating agencies, the BLM carried forward two of the existing ACECs in all alternatives (Brown/Howe Dinosaur Area and Spanish Point Karst). Reasons for these ACECs designation and management have not changed since their original designation, and no specific comments addressing issues with their current designation or management were found warranting an alternative considering their removal. In addition, the BLM analyzed alternatives that carried forward all of the existing ACECs (including expansions of five of these areas), nine new ACECs, and several Management or Special Management Areas (SMA) (Appendix F).

Recommend Withdrawals for Wilderness Study Areas

The BLM considered recommending withdrawals from appropriation under the mining laws for WSAs, but eliminated the alternative from detailed study. By law, an RMP cannot close an area to the operation of the Mining Laws – this can only be accomplished by withdrawal, which is a separate action BLM can recommend but must ultimately be taken at the Secretarial level. Withdrawals cannot be applied to WSAs solely for the protection of wilderness characteristics per FLPMA Section 603, although withdrawal of a WSA is permissible for the protection of other resource values. The 10 WSAs within the Planning Area contain important cultural resources and special status species habitat, which may be withdrawn on a case-by-case basis under all of the alternatives, as well as cave and karst resources and portions of the Spanish Point Karst ACEC, which are recommended for withdrawal under all of the alternatives.

2.4.8 Socioeconomic Resources

None of the alternatives considered and subsequently eliminated from detailed analysis specifically addressed socioeconomic resources. However, alternatives considered but eliminated from detailed analysis, such as no livestock grazing, and alternatives analyzed in detail that limit or expand oil and gas, mineral materials, mining, recreation, and livestock grazing affect socioeconomic conditions.

2.5 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

Management actions common to all alternatives can result because of specific limitations on management of resources and land use programs that guided the development of the management alternatives. These limitations are defined in various laws and regulations that govern BLM management decisions. They are also set forth in the planning criteria to ensure that management actions under all alternatives comply with nondiscretionary laws and regulations. In many cases, these laws and regulations preclude the development of alternatives to a given action; in some cases, they limit management either to implementing or not implementing the action.

This section summarizes some of the typical actions captured by management actions that are common to all alternatives. The section does not list all management actions; rather, the BLM selected and summarized actions to provide an overview. Management actions common to all alternatives include laws, regulations, and policies, and while the following descriptions reflect some of these types of actions, this section primarily includes management actions not established by such laws or policies. Table 2-9 provides a complete list of management actions common to all alternatives for each resource. This section groups management action summaries into eight broad resource topics (physical resources, mineral resources, fire and fuels management, biological resources, heritage and visual resources, land resources, special designations and other management areas, and socioeconomic resources).

2.5.1 Physical Resources

Management actions for physical resources include the use of best management practices (BMP) to preserve air, soil, cave and karst, and water resources. Appendix L includes examples of BLM approved BMPs, Required Design Features and Best Management Practices. Because BLM regularly reviews BMPs, Appendix L does not provide an exhaustive list. Success and effectiveness of BLM approved BMPs are determined by project specific implementation and monitoring. Certain management actions

specify conformance with Wyoming DEQ regulations (e.g., smoke management rules for prescribed burns and meeting water quality standards), or specify enforcement and remediation actions.

The BLM manages water resources to meet the *Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands* and to achieve PFC. Under all alternatives, the BLM manages surface-disturbing activities to prevent degradation of water quality for all waters. Management actions also include control of water runoff from disturbed or developed sites and control of soil erosion to appropriate rates for natural conditions through the Wyoming DEQ Water Quality Division Storm Water Permitting Program.

Under all alternatives, cave and karst resources are closed to mineral materials disposal, closed to mineral leasing, and withdrawn from locatable entry. In addition, motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in areas over important caves or cave passages.

2.5.2 Mineral Resources

Mineral resources management defines the scope of mineral development and applies measures such as BMPs to protect other resources and resource uses. Under all alternatives, the BLM manages land not formally withdrawn from mineral entry for exploration and development of locatable minerals. Proposals for new mineral materials disposal sites are subject to site-specific analysis prior to approval, but existing approved sites would remain open.

Management of leasable minerals includes consultation with private landowners about routing access roads, locating well pads, and other specific needs on split-estate; processing oil and gas lease applications on a case-by-case basis; and the application of BMPs in the exploration, development, production, and abandonment of oil and gas resources. Unless otherwise noted, BLM-administered land in the Planning Area that is open to oil and gas leasing is open to geothermal leasing, and, conversely, lands identified as closed to oil and gas leasing and exploration are also closed to geothermal leasing. Geothermal exploration and development is also subject to restrictions on surface-disturbing activities in the same manner as they are applied to oil and gas exploration and development activities.

2.5.3 Fire and Fuels Management

Fire and fuels management actions in the Planning Area would be implemented in coordination with and in support of other natural and cultural resource goals and objectives. Fire and fuels management actions will first prioritize the protection of firefighter and public safety while implementing an efficient and effective response to wildfire; restoring and maintaining resilient landscapes; and promoting fire-adapted communities and infrastructure. Prescribed burns will comply with Wyoming DEQ air quality standards and smoke management rules. Management prescriptions include suppressing fire that threatens greater sage-grouse habitat and crucial winter wildlife habitat in Wyoming big sagebrush communities, ensuring firefighting equipment is cleaned after water sources containing high-risk aquatic invasive species are used.

2.5.4 Biological Resources

Management actions common to all alternatives for biological resources include laws, regulations, and BLM policies that govern management of biological resources, as well as actions that set management to meet thresholds, minimize resource conflict and damage, and require stakeholder coordination. Management actions include a requirement that all types of forest management apply appropriate mitigation guidelines such as those described in the Wyoming Forestry BMPs (Appendix L), that

Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

riparian/wetland areas be managed to meet PFC and the *Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands*, and that the BLM work cooperatively to control outbreaks of grasshoppers and Mormon crickets. Areas harvested for timber are to be regenerated by natural or artificial means consistent with BLM policy, and vegetative communities are managed in accordance with the *Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands*. Management prescriptions for invasive species include developing and maintaining an invasive species and pest management plan, prohibiting aerial application of pesticides within the boundaries of the Spanish Point Karst ACEC, and coordinating with appropriate stakeholders to manage for the reduction of cheatgrass and other invasive species.

Fish and wildlife management includes actions to appropriately mitigate the effects of surface-disturbing activities. Management actions include maintaining or improving important wildlife habitats through vegetative manipulations, habitat improvement projects, livestock grazing strategies and the application of applicable guidance. The BLM prohibits surface-disturbing and disruptive activities in the Bighorn River Habitat Management Plan (HMP)/Resource Area Management Plan tracts and the BLM-administered tracts in Yellowtail Wildlife Habitat Management Area and applies a no surface occupancy (NSO) restriction as appropriate. The BLM will continue to use and update existing HMPs (including the West Slope HMP, Bighorn River HMP, and Absaroka Front HMP) as necessary to include management objectives and prescriptions for wildlife.

In consultation with stakeholders, projects that could affect special status species are to be postponed or modified to protect these species. Management actions specific to greater sage-grouse include avoiding aerial pesticide spraying, restoring greater sage-grouse brood-rearing habitats in riparian/wetland areas, managing vegetation diversity to provide suitable habitat during greater sage-grouse nesting periods, and conducting fire management to minimize wildfire size and frequency in sagebrush plant communities.

Wild horse management includes maintaining or enhancing conformance with the *Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands* within the Fifteenmile and McCullough Peaks HMAs. The BLM performs wild horse management activities in compliance with relevant court orders and agreements, including the Consent Decree (August 2003), as applicable to the management situation.

2.5.5 Heritage and Visual Resources

Management of heritage resources, including cultural and paleontological resources, includes consultation and cooperation with Native American tribes to limit exposure of heritage resources to incompatible uses. Management actions provide for consideration of the effects of incompatible uses on historic properties through the processes defined in the National Programmatic Agreement (BLM, ACHP, and National Conference of SHPO 2012) and the Wyoming State Protocol (BLM and Wyoming SHPO 2014). Specific actions include: investigations of Archaeological Resources Protection Act violations; limiting motorized vehicle use in areas that contain significant cultural and paleontological resources; pursuing withdrawals from appropriation under the mining laws for important cultural sites on a case by-case basis; performing inventories of sensitive cultural places identified during tribal consultations; ensuring that areas of importance to Native American Tribes are not transferred from federal ownership, physically modified, or affected by management actions in ways that restrict or deny access and/or use; protecting sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) appropriately; protecting and managing sites that are eligible for or listed on the NRHP; managing sites allocated for conservation, traditional use, or public use to avoid adverse effects; managing sites allocated for scientific or experimental use for their research potential; protecting and managing National Historic Landmarks through management of non-compatible uses and coordinating with affected landowners, local communities, and agencies on any decisions that could affect their use or operations; and devising management actions that complement the objectives of private landowners or local communities consistent with cultural resource protection goals and objectives.

Visual resources are managed in accordance with Visual Resource Management (VRM) class objectives. The BLM considers VRM objectives before authorizing land uses that may affect the visual character of the landscape.

2.5.6 Land Resources

Lands and realty management seeks to improve access to public land and enable better overall management of BLM-administered land. Management of acquired lands or interests in lands is consistent with adjacent or nearby BLM-administered land. The BLM considers land use authorizations, such as permits and leases and protective withdrawals, on a case-by-case basis. ROW management includes avoiding ROW authorizations in areas with 25 percent or more average slope and providing reasonable access across BLM-administered land to private land, subject to other resource concerns. The BLM manages renewable energy development in a manner consistent with other resource values, and initiates consultations with tribal governments if such development might affect tribes.

Routes within the Planning Area would be limited to existing roads, primitive roads, and trails. The OHV designation would change from “limited to existing roads, primitive roads, and trails” to “limited to designated roads, primitive roads, and trails” upon the completion of travel management plans. Route designation will be assessed using the designation criteria from 43 CFR 8342.1(b), “areas and trails shall be located to minimize harassment of wildlife or significant disruption of wildlife habitats. Special attention will be given to protect endangered or threatened species and their habitats.” Specific areas such as the Lovell Shooting Range, and the Cody Archery Range are closed to motorized vehicle use except where permitted. The BLM does not restrict pedestrian and equestrian travel on BLM-administered land, and allows these activities on or off roads or trails, except during some limited seasonal restrictions.

Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

Where off-road vehicles are causing or will cause considerable adverse effects upon soil, vegetation, wildlife, wildlife habitat, cultural resources, historical resources, threatened or endangered species, wilderness suitability, other authorized uses, or other resources, the affected areas shall be immediately closed to the type(s) of vehicle causing the adverse effect until the adverse effects are eliminated and measures implemented to prevent recurrence. This may include closure of routes or areas (43 CFR 8341.2).

The BLM manages recreational use to improve wetland habitat conditions along intensively used streams and reservoirs, consistent with the *Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands*. Surface-disturbing and disruptive activities associated with construction, maintenance, and use of roads, campgrounds, interpretive sites, and other recreational facilities are to be mitigated to protect other resource values.

Livestock grazing management includes the use of rangeland health assessments, resource monitoring, or analysis to determine if livestock grazing adjustments in amounts, kinds, and seasons of use are necessary.

2.5.7 Special Designations and Other Management Areas

Only the Brown/Howe Dinosaur Area ACEC and Spanish Point Karst ACEC are designated under all alternatives; therefore, only these ACECs have management actions common to all alternatives. Within the Brown/Howe Dinosaur Area ACEC, motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails, and all surface-disturbing activities are mitigated. The Spanish Point Karst ACEC is closed to motorized vehicle use and closed to oil and gas leasing.

Other special designation management actions include retaining the Red Gulch/Alkali Road National Back Country Byway and closing BLM-administered lands within the waterway corridors of Wild and Scenic River (WSR) eligible and suitable segments to land disposal actions. The BLM manages 10 WSAs in the Planning Area, including McCullough Peaks, Alkali Creek, Cedar Mountain, Honeycombs, Medicine Lodge, Trapper Creek, Owl Creek, Sheep Mountain, Red Butte, and Bobcat Draw Badlands in accordance with BLM Manual 6330 Management of Wilderness Study Areas. The BLM manages these areas as ROW avoidance and VRM Class I areas; the lands are closed to mineral and geothermal leasing, mineral materials disposal, and renewable energy development.

2.5.8 Socioeconomic Resources

Socioeconomic resource management includes ensuring BLM actions consider local and regional economic development and land use plans, incorporating BLM actions that are sensitive to the economic and social health of the affected area, and referring to available socioeconomic monitoring plans that provide indicators for the economic and social health of an affected area. Management prescriptions for health and safety in the Planning Area generally seek to reduce human and environmental risk and reduce government environmental liabilities. Actions designed to reduce these risks include preparing an Environmental Site Assessment for acquired lands and warning the public about hazardous substances.

2.6 Alternatives Summary

This section summarizes the six alternatives (A through F) considered in detail in this RMP and EIS. Due to the breadth of management prescriptions in the alternatives, this section describes only the key elements of alternatives (those with the greatest potential to affect resources). The summary descriptions provide a general overview of each alternative, the management emphasis associated with each alternative, and key management actions for each alternative. Table 2-9 later in this chapter provides detailed descriptions of the alternatives. The maps in Volume 3 further illustrate differences in acreage allocations and management prescriptions by alternative.

Table 2-6 lists acreage allocations for resources and resource uses by alternative. Table 2-7 lists acreage allocations and the emphasis for management in existing and proposed ACECs. These tables provide a comparative summary of acreage allocations under the four alternatives.

Alternatives Summary

Table 2-6. Comparative Summary of Proposed Land Use Decisions in the Bighorn Basin Planning Area

Topic	Acreage Type	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E	Alternative F
<i>Physical, Mineral, Biological, and Heritage and Visual Resources</i>							
Acres Available for Locatable Mineral Entry	BLM-Administered Mineral Estate	4,130,352	3,888,990	4,155,119	4,120,325	2,443,901	4,120,325
Acres Maintained/Recommended for Withdrawal Under the Mining Laws	BLM-Administered Mineral Estate	72,861	314,223	48,095	83,321	1,759,312	83,321
Acres Open to Geothermal Leasing	BLM-Administered Mineral Estate	3,986,094	1,684,832	3,993,194	3,776,248	1,684,832	3,776,248
Acres Closed to Geothermal Leasing	BLM-Administered Mineral Estate	151,931	2,453,193	145,836	361,777	2,453,193	361,777
Acres of Oil and Gas Management Areas where some discretionary seasonal restrictions would be relaxed.	BLM-Administered Mineral Estate	0	0	430,647 (for big game and sage-grouse)	348,617 (for big game)	0	348,617 (for big game)
Acres Closed to Oil and Gas Leasing	BLM-Administered Mineral Estate	260,792	2,464,745	145,836	292,353	2,464,745	324,829
Acres Open to Oil and Gas Leasing with Major Constraints	BLM-Administered Mineral Estate	889,435	932,551	91,956	1,221,142	969,432	1,191,215
Acres Open to Oil and Gas Leasing with Moderate Constraints	BLM-Administered Mineral Estate	1,633,204	335,109	1,334,491	1,714,685	319,671	1,709,652
Acres Open to Oil and Gas Leasing Subject to the Standard Lease Form	BLM-Administered Mineral Estate	1,354,593	405,620	2,565,742	911,814	384,176	912,328
Acres Open to Disposal of Mineral Materials	BLM-Administered Mineral Estate	3,974,564	1,612,993	3,859,251	3,828,320	1,059,062	3,828,320
Acres Closed to Disposal of Mineral Materials	BLM-Administered Mineral Estate	228,649	2,590,220	343,962	374,894	3,144,151	374,894

Table 2-6. Comparative Summary of Proposed Land Use Decisions in the Bighorn Basin Planning Area (Continued)

Topic	Acreage Type	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E	Alternative F
Greater Sage-Grouse Winter Concentration Areas	Planning Area	210,229 (TLS)	210,229 (NSO)	210,229 (TLS) ¹	210,229 (TLS)	210,229 (NSO)	210,229 (TLS)
	BLM-Administered Surface	172,809 (TLS)	172,809 (NSO)	172,809 (TLS) ¹	172,809 (TLS)	172,809 (NSO)	172,809 (TLS)
	BLM-Administered Mineral Estate	196,255 (TLS)	196,255 (NSO)	196,255 (TLS) ¹	196,255 (TLS)	196,255 (NSO)	196,255 (TLS)
Greater Sage-Grouse Occupied Lek Protective Buffer (Prohibitions or Restrictions on Surface-disturbing Activities)	Planning Area	26,871 (CSU)	146,324 (NSO)	26,871 (CSU)	116,522 (NSO)	146,324 (NSO)	116,522 (NSO)
	BLM-Administered Surface	21,352 (CSU)	117,398 (NSO)	21,352 (CSU)	97,889 (NSO)	117,398 (NSO)	97,889 (NSO)
	BLM-Administered Mineral Estate	26,835 (CSU)	146,233 (NSO)	26,835 (CSU)	118,309 (NSO)	146,233 (NSO)	118,309 (NSO)
Greater Sage-Grouse Occupied Lek Protective Buffer (Timing Limitation Stipulations on Surface-disturbing Activities)	Planning Area	1,461,107 (TLS)	1,526,277 (TLS)	1,461,107 (TLS) ¹	1,530,550 (TLS)	1,526,277 (TLS)	1,530,550 (TLS)
	BLM-Administered Surface	1,116,698 (TLS)	1,232,583 (TLS)	1,116,698 (TLS) ¹	1,236,037 (TLS)	1,232,583 (TLS)	1,236,037 (TLS)
	BLM-Administered Mineral Estate	1,458,628 (TLS)	1,520,845 (TLS)	1,458,628 (TLS) ¹	1,462,901 (TLS)	1,520,845 (TLS)	1,462,901 (TLS)
Raptor Active Nest Protective Buffer (Restrictions or Timing Limitation Stipulations on Surface-disturbing Activities)	Planning Area	592,529 (TLS)	994,586 (TLS) 82,294 (CSU)	82,294 (TLS) ²	209,695 (TLS) 82,294 (CSU)	994,586 (TLS) 82,294 (CSU)	209,695 (TLS) 82,294 (CSU)
	BLM-Administered Surface	337,662 (TLS)	569,218 (TLS) 47,651 (CSU)	47,651 (TLS) ²	126,241 (TLS) 47,651 (CSU)	569,218 (TLS) 47,651 (CSU)	126,241 (TLS) 47,651 (CSU)
	BLM-Administered Mineral Estate	428,089 (TLS)	762,795 (TLS) 58,570 (CSU)	58,570 (TLS) ²	161,662 (TLS) 58,570 (CSU)	762,795 (TLS) 58,570 (CSU)	161,622 (TLS) 58,570 (CSU)
Acreage of Aspen Restored	BLM-Administered Surface	25-200 per year until 2,000-4,000 are restored	100 per year	N/A ¹	CBC	100 per year	CBC
Riparian/Wetland Areas Managed	BLM-Administered Surface	23,957 ³ Towards PFC	23,957 ³ Towards DPC	23,957 ³ Towards PFC	23,957 ³ Towards PFC	23,957 ³ Towards DPC	23,957 ³ Towards PFC
Fisheries Habitat Restored or Improved	BLM-Administered Surface	CBC	10 lotic ⁴ miles; 80 lentic ⁵ acres	CBC	on a priority basis	10 lotic ⁴ miles; 80 lentic ⁵ acres	on a priority basis

Alternatives Summary

Table 2-6. Comparative Summary of Proposed Land Use Decisions in the Bighorn Basin Planning Area (Continued)

Topic	Acreage Type	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E	Alternative F
Restrictions on Surface Development on or near Important Cultural Sites	BLM-Administered Surface	CBC	NSO within 3 miles and CSU in view within 5 miles	NSO within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile and CSU in view within 1 mile	CSU up to 3 miles where setting is an important aspect of the integrity for the site	NSO within 3 miles and CSU in view within 5 miles	CSU up to 3 miles where setting is an important aspect of the integrity for the site
Visual Resource Management – Class I	BLM-Administered Surface	141,127	154,359	140,976	141,127	154,359	141,127
	BLM-Administered Mineral Estate	139,168	152,243	139,017	139,169	152,243	139,169
Visual Resource Management – Class II	BLM-Administered Surface	340,784	1,784,854	333,027	731,812	1,784,854	731,812
	BLM-Administered Mineral Estate	547,318	2,499,146	507,511	1,170,320	2,499,146	1,170,320
Visual Resource Management – Class III	BLM-Administered Surface	890,482	394,106	510,535	738,531	394,106	738,531
	BLM-Administered Mineral Estate	1,171,831	469,557	790,976	981,591	469,557	981,591
Visual Resource Management – Class IV	BLM-Administered Surface	1,815,043	858,263	2,202,825	1,580,470	858,263	1,580,470
	BLM-Administered Mineral Estate	2,324,800	1,066,985	2,745,681	1,897,333	1,066,985	1,897,333
Visual Resource Management – Unclassified	BLM-Administered Surface	23	24	24	37	24	37
	BLM-Administered Mineral Estate	19,370	19,370	19,370	19,299	19,370	19,299
Resource Uses and Support							
Acres Open to Renewable Energy Development	BLM-Administered Surface	CBC	251,203	1,428,360	1,315,309	254,151	607,429
Renewable Energy Avoidance Areas	BLM-Administered Surface	CBC	1,691,663	1,611,040	1,500,395	988,459	2,507,581
Renewable Energy Exclusion Areas	BLM-Administered Surface	CBC	1,244,948	148,416	372,110	1,945,204	292,949

Table 2-6. Comparative Summary of Proposed Land Use Decisions in the Bighorn Basin Planning Area (Continued)

Topic	Acreage Type	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E	Alternative F
Acres Closed to Livestock Grazing	BLM-Administered Surface	5,009	1,984,211	5,009	5,009	1,984,211	5,009
Number of Special Recreation Management Areas	BLM-Administered Surface	7	13	1	13	13	13
Number of Extensive Recreation Management Areas	BLM-Administered Surface	2 (Under previous guidance)	1	2	5	1	5
Acres Closed to Motorized Vehicle Use	BLM-Administered Surface	68,115	170,253	9,274	61,010	170,253	61,010
Acres Open to Motorized Cross-country Travel	BLM-Administered Surface	1,311	3,132	14,830	5,885	3,132	5,885
Acres Limited to Existing Roads and Trails for Motorized Vehicle Use	BLM-Administered Surface	2,315,896	592,563	2,137,574	1,955,943	592,563	1,295,072
Acres Limited to Designated Roads and Trails for Motorized Vehicle Use	BLM-Administered Surface	797,077	2,416,378	1,020,748	1,159,557	2,416,378	1,820,427
Acres Closed to Over-snow Vehicle Use	BLM-Administered Surface	N/A ¹	1,859,038	CBC	CBC	1,859,038	CBC
Land Available for Disposal	BLM-Administered Surface	115,905	24,042	117,845	66,363	24,042	66,363
Surface Ownership Retained	BLM-Administered Surface	3,071,909	3,164,261	3,069,967	3,121,558	3,164,297	3,121,558
Open for Entry Under the Desert Land Act	BLM-Administered Surface	1,409	0	1,409	1,409	0	1,409
Rights-of-Way Avoidance Areas	BLM-Administered Surface	940,943	2,710,695	1,173,162	2,408,662	1,610,729	2,315,730
Rights-of-Way Exclusion Areas	BLM-Administered Surface	61,147	225,447	7,586	40,802	1,322,879	133,734
Lands Managed to Maintain Wilderness Characteristics	BLM-Administered Surface	0	476,349	0	0	476,349	49,396

Alternatives Summary

Table 2-6. Comparative Summary of Proposed Land Use Decisions in the Bighorn Basin Planning Area (Continued)

Topic	Acreage Type	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E	Alternative F
Special Designations							
Nez Perce National Historic Trail Management Corridor	BLM-Administered Surface	1,638 ³	24,437 (NSO) 38,319 ² (CSU)	1,638 (NSO) 7,716 ² (CSU)	up to 15,816 ²	24,437 (NSO) 38,319 ² (CSU)	up to 15,816 ²
Wild and Scenic Rivers (acreage managed to preserve eligibility for inclusion in the NWSRS)	BLM-Administered Surface	27,317	27,317	0	0	27,317	0
Wilderness Study Areas	BLM-Administered Surface	141,068 ⁶	141,068 ⁷	141,068	141,068 ⁷	141,068 ⁷	141,068 ⁷

Note: The Planning Area is the area of analysis for this document; it encompasses the area addressed in the previous RMPs, regardless of ownership. However, decisions in this RMP apply only to BLM-administered surface lands and mineral estate.

¹Oil and Gas Management Areas and ROW corridors are exempt from discretionary wildlife seasonal stipulations.

²Surface-disturbing activities are avoided.

³Management toward DFC and DPC is assumed to exceed the requirements of managing toward PFC.

⁴Running water riparian/wetland areas such as rivers, streams, and springs.

⁵Standing water riparian/wetland areas such as lakes, ponds, seeps, bogs, and meadows.

⁶Includes 1,290 acres of acquired state land in Bobcat Draw.

⁷In-holdings acquired with willing landowners on a case-by-case basis.

BLM	Bureau of Land Management	NWSRS	National Wild and Scenic River System
CBC	case-by-case	PFC	proper functioning condition
CSU	controlled surface use	PHMAS	Priority Habitat Management Areas
DFC	desired future condition	RMP	Resource Management Plan
DPC	desired plant community	ROW	Right-of-way
N/A	not applicable	TLS	timing limitations
NSO	no surface occupancy		

Table 2-7. Comparative Summary of Proposed Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and other Management Areas by Alternative

Name	Value(s) of Concern	Acreage Type	Alternative A		Alternative B		Alternative C		Alternative D		Alternative E		Alternative F	
			Existing Designation	Acreage	Proposed Designation	Acreage								
Big Cedar Ridge	Paleontological	Total Surface	ACEC	264	ACEC	264	None	0	ACEC	264	ACEC	264	ACEC	264
		BLM-Administered Surface		264		264		0		264		264		264
		BLM-Administered Mineral Estate		264		264		0		264		264		264
Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite	Paleontological	Total Surface	ACEC	1,798	ACEC	1,798	None	0	ACEC	1,798	ACEC	1,798	ACEC	1,798
		BLM-Administered Surface		1,798		1,798		0		1,798		1,798		1,798
		BLM-Administered Mineral Estate		1,798		1,798		0		1,798		1,798		1,798
Sheep Mountain Anticline	Geologic; Caves; Cultural; Scenic	Total Surface	ACEC	13,261	ACEC	13,261	None	0	ACEC	13,261	ACEC	13,261	ACEC	13,261
		BLM-Administered Surface		11,520		11,520		0		11,520		11,520		11,520
		BLM-Administered Mineral Estate		11,771		11,771		0		11,771		11,771		11,771

Alternatives Summary

Table 2-7. Comparative Summary of Proposed Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and other Management Areas by Alternative (Continued)

Name	Value(s) of Concern	Acreage Type	Alternative A		Alternative B		Alternative C		Alternative D		Alternative E		Alternative F	
			Existing Designation	Acreage	Proposed Designation	Acreage								
Spanish Point Karst	Caves; Recreational; Sinking Stream Segments; Water Quality	Total Surface	ACEC	8,026										
		BLM-Administered Surface		6,298		6,298		6,298		6,298		6,298		6,298
		BLM-Administered Mineral Estate		8,022		8,022		8,022		8,022		8,022		8,022
Brown/Howe Dinosaur Area	Paleontological	Total Surface	ACEC	5,521	ACEC	20,778	ACEC	5,521	ACEC	5,521	ACEC	20,778	ACEC	5,521
		BLM-Administered Surface		5,501		20,734		5,501		5,501		20,734		5,501
		BLM-Administered Mineral Estate		5,348		20,581		5,348		5,348		20,581		5,348
Carter Mountain	Vegetation; Wildlife Expansion; Cultural; Recreational; Special Status Species; Vegetation; Watershed Vegetation; Wildlife	Total Surface	ACEC	10,947	ACEC	22,203	None	0	ACEC	10,947	ACEC	22,203	ACEC	10,947
		BLM-Administered Surface		10,867		16,574		0		10,867		16,574		10,867
		BLM-Administered Mineral Estate		10,224		17,154		0		10,224		17,154		10,224

Table 2-7. Comparative Summary of Proposed Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and other Management Areas by Alternative (Continued)

Name	Value(s) of Concern	Acreage Type	Alternative A		Alternative B		Alternative C		Alternative D		Alternative E		Alternative F	
			Existing Designation	Acreage	Proposed Designation	Acreage	Proposed Designation	Acreage	Proposed Designation	Acreage	Proposed Designation	Acreage	Proposed Designation	Acreage
Five Springs Falls	Recreational; Scenic; Special Status Species Expansion; Geologic; Scenic; Public Safety	Total Surface	ACEC	163	ACEC	1,809	None	0	ACEC	163	ACEC	1,809	ACEC	163
		BLM-Administered Surface		163		1,809		0		163		1,809		163
		BLM-Administered Mineral Estate		163		1,809		0		163		1,809		163
Little Mountain	Caves; Cultural; Paleontological; Scenic	Total Surface	ACEC	21,477	ACEC	89,146	None	0	ACEC	21,477	ACEC	89,146	ACEC	21,477
		BLM-Administered Surface		21,476		72,051		0		21,476		72,051		21,476
		BLM-Administered Mineral Estate		21,477		79,485		0		21,477		79,485		21,477
Upper Owl Creek Area	Cultural; Fish; Recreational; Scenic; Soils; Special Status Species; Vegetation; Wildlife	Total Surface	ACEC	14,266	ACEC	33,241	None	0	ACEC	14,266	ACEC	33,286	ACEC	14,266
		BLM-Administered Surface		13,758		32,733		0		13,758		32,733		13,758
		BLM-Administered Mineral Estate		13,842 ¹		32,817		0		13,842		32,817		13,842
Chapman Bench	Special Status Species; Vegetation; Wildlife	Total Surface	None	0	ACEC	23,333	None	0	MA	3,425	ACEC	23,333	MA	3,425
		BLM-Administered Surface		0		23,326		0		3,425		23,326		3,425
		BLM-Administered Mineral Estate		0		23,324		0		3,425		23,324		3,425

Alternatives Summary

Table 2-7. Comparative Summary of Proposed Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and other Management Areas by Alternative (Continued)

Name	Value(s) of Concern	Acreage Type	Alternative A		Alternative B		Alternative C		Alternative D		Alternative E		Alternative F	
			Existing Designation	Acreage	Proposed Designation	Acreage								
Clarks Fork Basin/Polecat Bench West Paleontological Area	Paleontological; Scenic	Total Surface	None	0	ACEC	25,212	None	0	None ²	0	ACEC	25,212	None ²	0
		BLM-Administered Surface		0		23,895		0		0		23,895		0
		BLM-Administered Mineral Estate		0		23,384		0		0		23,384		0
Clarks Fork Canyon	Geologic; Open Space; Recreational; Special Status Species; Wildlife	Total Surface	None	0	ACEC	14,056	None	0	ACEC	4,759	ACEC	14,058	ACEC	4,759
		BLM-Administered Surface		0		12,249		0		4,746		12,249		4,746
		BLM-Administered Mineral Estate		0		12,718		0		4,746		12,718		4,746
Foster Gulch Paleontological Area	Paleontological; Scenic	Total Surface	None	0	ACEC	28,585	None	0	None ²	0	ACEC	28,585	None ²	0
		BLM-Administered Surface		0		27,302		0		0		27,302		0
		BLM-Administered Mineral Estate		0		27,302		0		0		27,302		0
McCullough Peaks South Paleontological Area	Paleontological; Scenic	Total Surface	None	0	ACEC	6,994	None	0	None ²	0	ACEC	6,994	None ²	0
		BLM-Administered Surface		0		6,994		0		0		6,994		0
		BLM-Administered Mineral Estate		0		6,994		0		0		6,994		0

Table 2-7. Comparative Summary of Proposed Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and other Management Areas by Alternative (Continued)

Name	Value(s) of Concern	Acreage Type	Alternative A		Alternative B		Alternative C		Alternative D		Alternative E		Alternative F	
			Existing Designation	Acreage	Proposed Designation	Acreage								
Rainbow Canyon	Paleontological; Geologic; Scenic	Total Surface	None	0	ACEC	1,433	None	0	None	0	ACEC	1,433	None	0
		BLM-Administered Surface		0		1,433		0		0		1,433		0
		BLM-Administered Mineral Estate		0		1,433		0		0		1,433		0
Rattlesnake Mountain	Special Status Species; Vegetation; Wildlife	Total Surface	None	0	ACEC	21,472	None	0	None	0	ACEC	21,472	None	0
		BLM-Administered Surface		0		19,137		0		0		19,137		0
		BLM-Administered Mineral Estate		0		18,639		0		0		18,639		0
Sheep Mountain	Vegetation; Wildlife	Total Surface	None	0	ACEC	73,298	None	0	ACEC	25,960	ACEC	73,298	ACEC	25,960
		BLM-Administered Surface		0		25,151		0		14,200		25,151		14,200
		BLM-Administered Mineral Estate		0		55,289		0		22,563		55,289		22,563
PETM ³	Paleontological; Scenic	Total Surface	None	0	None	0	None	0	ACEC	14,912	None	0	ACEC	14,912
		BLM-Administered Surface		0		0		0		14,906		0		14,906
		BLM-Administered Mineral Estate		0		0		0		14,908		0		14,908

Alternatives Summary

Table 2-7. Comparative Summary of Proposed Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and other Management Areas by Alternative (Continued)

Name	Value(s) of Concern	Acreage Type	Alternative A		Alternative B		Alternative C		Alternative D		Alternative E		Alternative F	
			Existing Designation	Acreage	Proposed Designation	Acreage								
Absaroka Front	N/A	Total Surface	None	0	MA	402,685								
		BLM-Administered Surface		0		130,872		130,872		130,872		130,872		130,872
		BLM-Administered Mineral Estate		0		253,117		253,117		253,117		253,117		253,117
Craig Thomas Little Mountain	N/A	Total Surface	SMA ¹	89,308	SMA ¹	89,308	SMA ¹	89,308	SMA	89,308	SMA ¹	89,308	SMA	89,308
		BLM-Administered Surface		69,274		69,274		69,274		69,274		69,274		69,274
		BLM-Administered Mineral Estate		79,440		79,440		79,440		79,440		79,440		79,440
Oil and Gas	N/A	Total Surface	None	0	None	0	MA	568,165	MA	528,162	None	0	MA	528,162
		BLM-Administered Surface		0		0		430,674		348,617		0		348,617
		BLM-Administered Mineral Estate		0		0		566,345		441,662		0		441,662

Table 2-7. Comparative Summary of Proposed Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and other Management Areas by Alternative (Continued)

Name	Value(s) of Concern	Acreage Type	Alternative A		Alternative B		Alternative C		Alternative D		Alternative E		Alternative F	
			Existing Designation	Acreage	Proposed Designation	Acreage	Proposed Designation	Acreage						
Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas (<i>Alternative E</i>) and PHMAs (<i>Alternative F</i>) ACECs	Special Status Species, Vegetation	Total Surface	None	0	None	0	None	0	None	0	None	1,857,485	None	1,786,244
		BLM-Administered Surface		0		0		0		0		1,232,583		1,116,698
		BLM-Administered Mineral Estate		0		0		0		0		1,520,845		1,458,628

Note: "Total Surface" refers to all area encompassed by the Planning Area addressed in previous Resource Management Plans (RMPs), regardless of current ownership. BLM-administered surface and BLM-administered mineral estate are federal lands administered by the BLM. This RMP describes and analyzes alternatives for the future management of public lands and resources administered by the BLM.

¹The Craig Thomas Little Mountain Special Management Area would continue under all alternatives, but only Alternative D contains specific management for this area in this document.

²Though not proposed under Alternative D, a portion of this area does fall within the proposed PETM ACEC.

³Portions of ACEC proposed under Alternative D are managed as the Clarks Fork Basin/Polecat Bench, McCullough Peaks South Paleontological Area, and Foster Gulch ACECs under Alternative B.

ACEC Area of Critical Environmental Concern

BLM Bureau of Land Management

MA Management Area

N/A not applicable

PETM Paleocene, Eocene Thermal Maximum

PHMA Priority Habitat Management Area

SMA Special Management Area

Alternatives Summary

Goals and objectives (desired outcomes) is a category of land use planning decisions; however, this section does not describe goals and objectives because they do not differ among alternatives. Instead, Section 2.7 *Detailed Description of Alternatives by Resource* describes the goals and objectives for each of the eight resource topics.

Restrictions on resource uses (e.g., closed to mineral leasing) would apply throughout the life of this RMP, unless restrictions change through an RMP amendment. Changes in resource-use restrictions and a resulting RMP amendment can result due to public demand, statewide or national policy and guidance, or other factors. The timing and degree of implementation of management prescriptions in this RMP depend on available budget, staffing, and agency priorities. Actions the BLM takes or authorizes during RMP implementation would comply with standard practices, BLM approved BMPs, guidelines for surface-disturbing activities, and other BLM guidelines and policy. Therefore, the BLM considers these practices and guidelines part of each alternative. Implementation of new BLM policy and guidance during the life of this RMP will be incorporated into the land use planning process and implementation-level decisions.

The lack of detailed, implementation-level decisions in the land use planning process prohibits the development of specific, detailed mitigation measures. As appropriate, the BLM will perform additional environmental analyses during the implementation stage for site-specific actions, and will determine on a case-by-case basis what, if any, mitigation is required. For management actions where adverse impacts to other resources would occur, "on a case-by-case basis" means an action would only be allowed when impacts can be adequately mitigated consistent with other resource goals and objectives.

2.6.1 Alternative A (Current Management)

Overview of the Alternative

Alternative A represents the current management of resources on BLM-administered surface and mineral estate within the Planning Area under the three existing plans. Management under Alternative A continues to balance the use and development of Planning Area resources.

Resource Uses and Support

Under Alternative A, 4,130,352 acres are available for locatable mineral entry and 72,861 acres are withdrawn from locatable mineral entry. Approximately 260,792 acres of federal mineral estate in the Planning Area are closed to oil and gas leasing. The remaining federal mineral estate in the Planning Area is open for oil and gas leasing subject to the following constraints: 1,354,593 acres are subject to standard stipulations, 1,633,204 acres are subject to moderate constraints, and 889,435 acres are subject to major constraints. The BLM identifies constraints on mineral leasing in the Planning Area to protect resource values. Alternative A does not include specific management decisions regarding Oil and Gas Management Areas. Under this alternative, 3,974,564 acres are available for mineral materials disposal and 228,649 acres are closed to mineral materials disposal.

Land resource program actions under Alternative A identify 115,905 acres in the Planning Area as available for disposal. Under Alternative A, the BLM manages 940,943 acres as ROW avoidance areas, and 61,147 acres as ROW exclusion areas. Alternative A requires approval of renewable energy development projects to be considered on a case-by-case basis. Travel management designations under Alternative A include 68,115 acres closed to motorized vehicle use, 2,315,896 acres limited to existing roads and trails, 797,077 acres limited to designated roads and trails, and 1,311 acres open to motorized

vehicle use. Under Alternative A, the BLM considers areas open to over-snow vehicles on a case-by-case basis.

Recreation management under Alternative A balances protection of recreational resources with other resource uses. The BLM applies NSO restrictions to fishing and hunting access areas, Five Springs Falls Campground, the Cody Archery Range, and Recreation and Public Purpose (R&PP) lease area for the Lovell Rod and Gun Club. Under Alternative A, the BLM maintains seven Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) – Absaroka Mountain Foothills (72,130 acres), Badlands (213,981 acres), Bighorn River (15,256 acres), West Slope (375,888 acres), The Rivers (18,247 acres), Historic Trails (12,065 acres), and Worland Caves. Alternative A also includes two Extensive Recreation Management Areas (ERMAs) – the Cody and the Worland general ERMAs.

Under Alternative A, the BLM allows livestock grazing on all but 5,009 acres of the Planning Area. The alternative allows the use of produced water for livestock on a case-by-case basis and prohibits the placement of salt, mineral, or forage supplements within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, riparian areas, or reforested areas.

Special Designations

Alternative A includes nine ACECs – Carter Mountain, Five Springs Falls, Little Mountain, Sheep Mountain Anticline, Brown/Howe Dinosaur Area, Upper Owl Creek Area, Spanish Point Karst, Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite, and Big Cedar Ridge. Table 2-7 summarizes acreages and management emphasis in each of these ACECs. Under Alternative A, there is one National Back Country Byway (Red Gulch/Alkali Road National Back Country Byway), one National Historic Landmark (Heart Mountain Relocation Center), and one NHT (the Nez Perce NHT). This alternative also manages 20 WSR eligible waterways, each with interim protective management, and 10 WSAs.

Physical, Biological, Heritage and Visual Resources, and Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Under Alternative A, the BLM manages physical resources to conserve air, water, and soil resources and to support resources and resource uses. Alternative A includes soil reclamation practices such as seeding of disturbed areas using approved seed mixtures of native species and reestablishing vegetative cover over disturbed soils within 5 years of initial seeding. No reclamation plans are required, and the BLM considers stabilization of heavily eroded roads and topsoil salvage and segregation on a case-by-case basis. The BLM assesses erosion and soil stability during rangeland health evaluations. Alternative A allows for the proper disposal of produced water on BLM-administered lands if it meets the State of Wyoming water quality standards. This alternative does not include management actions to maintain contiguous blocks of vegetation and habitat on BLM-administered lands. Under Alternative A, vegetation resources would be managed to maintain DPC composition for eight broadly defined plant communities. DPC objectives include percent composition by weight for grasses, shrubs, and forbs and, where appropriate, grass-like species and trees with an emphasis on invasion of limber pine and juniper on deep soils on woodland sites. Alternative A prohibits surface-disturbing activities within 500 feet of surface water and riparian/wetland areas and allows aerial application of pesticides in all areas on a case-by-case basis.

Alternative A management actions attempt to provide habitat for fish and wildlife, meet public demand for forest products, protect natural functions in riparian areas, control the spread of invasive species, and comply with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and BLM policy for special status species. Alternative A applies an NSO restriction and manages surface-disturbing activities using standard restrictions within

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500 feet of surface water and riparian areas to protect fish habitat. Seasonal wildlife restrictions under Alternative A include avoiding surface-disturbing activities in big game crucial winter range from November 15 through April 30. This alternative applies CSU stipulations for big game migration corridors, narrow ridges, and overlapping big game crucial winter ranges.

Under this alternative, the BLM prohibits surface-disturbing activities within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of occupied greater sage-grouse leks and within 2 miles of occupied leks in greater sage-grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitats. The BLM prohibits surface-disturbing activities in greater sage-grouse winter concentration areas from November 15 to March 14. Alternative A does not include travel management restrictions in greater sage-grouse Key Habitat Areas. Alternative A prohibits any activity within $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of active raptor nests from February 1 through July 31. The BLM identifies no specific management actions for black-footed ferret reintroduction but does implement conservation measures, Biological Evaluations, and inter-agency coordination memorandums for all prairie dogs. Impacts to special status plant species from a variety of resource uses are reviewed by the BLM which implements avoidance and mitigation measures on a case-by-case basis.

Alternative A provides for wild horse viewing opportunities in both the Fifteenmile and McCullough Peaks HMAs. Mitigation of surface-disturbing activity to protect wild horse health is applied only in the Fifteenmile HMA. As required by national policy, the BLM prohibits wild horse gathers between **March 1** and June 30.

Alternative A requires the BLM to balance the protection of cultural and paleontological resources with resource development. Under this alternative, the BLM pursues restrictions and places stipulations on mineral leasing and mineral materials disposal on a case-by-case basis near cultural resources.

Alternative A also allows renewable energy development near cultural resource sites on a case-by-case basis, consistent with applicable policy and guidance and other resource management objectives.

Under Alternative A, the BLM attaches Standard Paleontological Resources Protection Stipulations to authorizations for surface-disturbing activities on Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) 3, 4, and 5 formations. This alternative also requires an on-the-ground survey prior to approval of surface-disturbing activities or land-disposal actions, and monitoring of surface-disturbing activities in **all PFYC 4 and 5 formations and, surveys may or may not be required in PFYC 3 areas.** Under this alternative, the BLM prohibits surface-disturbing activities within 50 feet of the outer edge of a paleontological locality and also prohibits the resumption of activity within 50 feet of a paleontological discovery until the authorized officer issues a written authorization to proceed.

Under Alternative A, the BLM manages visual resources in accordance with four VRM classes. The class allocations for BLM-administered surface lands include **141,127 acres of VRM Class I, 340,784 acres of VRM Class II, 890,482 acres of VRM Class III, and 1,815,043 acres of VRM Class IV.** Under Alternative A, **23 acres are unclassified.** Alternative A does not specifically manage lands with **wilderness characteristics** to preserve their wilderness characteristics.

2.6.2 Alternative B

Overview of the Alternative

Alternative B emphasizes conservation of physical, biological, heritage and visual resources, and lands with wilderness characteristics with constraints on resource uses. Alternative B conserves large areas of land for physical, biological, and heritage resources; designates 17 ACECs; and places a number of restrictions on motorized vehicle use and mineral development.

Resource Uses and Support

Mineral resource uses are subject to additional constraints under Alternative B compared to other alternatives except Alternative E (see Table 2-6 for comparative land use acreages by alternative). Under Alternative B, 3,888,990 acres are available and 314,223 acres are withdrawn or would be recommended for withdrawal or extension of an existing withdrawal from locatable mineral entry. In addition, approximately 2,464,745 acres of federal mineral estate are closed to oil and gas leasing; the remaining federal mineral estate is open to oil and gas leasing subject to the following constraints: 405,620 acres are subject to the standard lease form, 335,109 acres are subject to moderate constraints, and 932,551 acres are subject to major constraints. Alternative B does not delineate Oil and Gas Management Areas. This alternative makes 1,612,993 acres available for mineral materials disposal, while 2,590,220 acres are closed to mineral materials disposal.

Land resource program actions under Alternative B identify 24,042 acres of BLM-administered land in the Planning Area as available for disposal. Under Alternative B, the BLM manages 2,710,695 acres as ROW avoidance areas, and 225,487 acres as ROW exclusion areas. Under Alternative B, 251,203 acres are open to renewable energy development.

Under Alternative B, travel and recreation management emphasizes protection of resources and recreational experiences, and includes more restrictions on resource uses than the other alternatives except Alternative E. Under Alternative B, 170,253 acres of BLM-administered land are closed to motorized vehicle use, 592,563 acres are limited to existing roads and trails, 2,416,378 acres are limited to designated roads and trails, and 3,132 acres are open to motorized vehicle use. Areas opened through activity planning to over-snow travel are required to have a minimum average of 12 inches of snow, and all ACECs, lands with wilderness characteristics specifically managed to preserve their wilderness characteristics, WSAs, WSRs, greater sage-grouse winter concentration areas, and big game crucial winter ranges are closed to over-snow travel. Alternative B expands the resource constraints on recreational areas present under Alternative A, applying an NSO restriction on areas within ¼ mile of campgrounds, trailheads, day use areas, and similar recreation sites and applying a CSU stipulation on developed recreation sites and national, regional, and local trails. Under Alternative B, the BLM designates the following 13 SRMAs: Absaroka Mountain Foothills (72,130 acres), Badlands (220,687 acres), Bighorn River (15,113 acres), West Slope (406,309 acres), The Rivers (18,247 acres), Canyon Creek (3,677 acres), Red Canyon Creek (8,435 acres), Horse Pasture (144 acre), McCullough Peaks (160,838 acres), Basin Garden (19,771 acres), Beck Lake (6,483 acres), and Newton Lake Ridge (1,997 acres). Cave and karst resources are managed under the Worland Caves ERMA while all other non-designated land is managed under other multiple-use objectives.

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Under this alternative, a large portion of the Planning Area is closed to livestock grazing (1,984,211 acres) as a result of factors such as crucial winter range for elk and bighorn sheep and greater sage-grouse Key Habitat Areas. The remainder of the Planning Area is open to grazing where it does not conflict with other resource uses.

Special Designations

Alternative B includes 17 ACECs – the nine existing areas (five of which the BLM proposes for expansion) and eight new ACECs. The five existing ACECs the BLM proposes to expand are Brown/Howe Dinosaur Area, Carter Mountain, Five Springs Falls, Little Mountain, and Upper Owl Creek. The eight proposed ACECs are Chapman Bench, Clarks Fork Basin/Polecat Bench West Paleontological Area, Clarks Fork Canyon, Foster Gulch Paleontological Area, McCullough Peaks South Paleontological Area, Rainbow Canyon, Rattlesnake Mountain, and Sheep Mountain. Table 2-7 summarizes acreages and management emphasis in each of these ACECs.

Alternative B retains the Red Gulch/Alkali Road National Back Country Byway and designates the Hyattville Logging Road and Hazelton Road as primitive Back Country Byways. Under this alternative, the BLM also applies protective management prescriptions to the Heart Mountain Relocation Center National Historic Landmark, Nez Perce NHT, and other important historic and regional trails. Under Alternative B, the BLM manages all 20 WSR-eligible waterways as suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System (NWSRS), and applies more restrictive interim management prescriptions to the waterways. Under Alternative B, the BLM applies additional constraints on travel within the 10 WSAs.

Physical, Biological, Heritage and Visual Resources, and Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Under Alternative B, the BLM manages physical resources (air, water, and soil) with an emphasis on conservation. This alternative is less focused on supporting resource uses than Alternative A.

Alternative B requires an inventory of BLM-administered land to determine the rate of erosion and degree of soil slope stability and photo point monitoring of all channel crossings and all surface disturbance of more than $\frac{1}{2}$ acre. In addition, Alternative B requires reclamation plans and topsoil salvage for any BLM-authorized surface-disturbing activity. As under Alternative A, the BLM continues the use of seed mixtures of native species to reclaim disturbed areas. Under Alternative B, the BLM does not authorize new activities resulting in the surface discharge of produced water on BLM-administered land and allows the fencing of springs, wetlands, reservoirs, and riparian areas as necessary to meet resource objectives.

Alternative B emphasizes the conservation of habitat for fish and wildlife, maintenance of contiguous blocks of native plant communities, ecosystem management, protection of natural functions in riparian areas, and control of invasive species. Under Alternative B, ESDs are emphasized in the management of vegetation resources, with a management focus on making progress towards the reference state plant community as described in the appropriate ESD. This alternative places the second-most constraints on resource uses that affect biological resources after Alternative E. For example, the BLM prohibits surface-disturbing activities within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of riparian/wetland areas, applies an NSO restriction on wetland areas of more than 40 acres, and prohibits aerial application of pesticides within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of riparian/wetland areas and aquatic habitats. For the protection of fish species, the BLM also applies an NSO restriction and prohibits surface disturbance within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of any waters rated by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) as Blue Ribbon (national importance) or Red Ribbon (regional importance) trout streams, and applies a 500 foot buffer around all other fisheries. Seasonal wildlife

restrictions under this alternative include a motorized vehicle closure in big game crucial winter range. The BLM prohibits surface-disturbing activities year-round in big game crucial winter range and within ½ mile of big game migration corridors. Under this alternative, the BLM designates the Absaroka Front Management Area (130,872 acres), closing it to most mineral entry and limiting other resource uses.

Compared to Alternative A, special status species receive increased protection under Alternative B. Alternative B extends the protective buffers around greater sage-grouse habitat, prohibiting surface-disturbing activities within 0.6 mile of occupied greater sage-grouse leks and seasonally mitigating surface-disturbing activities in greater sage-grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitat. Greater sage-grouse Key Habitat Areas are closed to mineral leasing and are closed to motorized vehicle use from March 15 to June 30. Under Alternative B, the BLM prohibits surface-disturbing activities within 1 mile of active raptor nests during nesting periods and applies a year-round ¼-mile CSU stipulation on all raptor nests. The BLM applies an NSO restriction on suitable habitat for black-footed ferret reintroduction and on the Sage Creek Prairie Dog Town. For the protection of BLM special status plant species, the BLM applies protective buffers that prohibit various resource uses and surface-disturbing activity around special status plant species populations.

Alternative B emphasizes wild horse health and does not allow special recreation permits (SRP) using domestic horses in the McCullough Peaks and Fifteenmile HMAs. Under this alternative, the BLM applies seasonal restrictions on surface-disturbing activities to prevent foal abandonment or jeopardy of wild horse health and welfare. Under Alternative B, wild horse gathers would occur, to the extent possible, in the fall after peak foaling.

Alternative B emphasizes the protection of cultural and paleontological resources and restricts resource uses that might adversely affect such resources. Around important cultural sites, the BLM applies an NSO restriction within 3 miles and a CSU stipulation in view within 5 miles for leasable minerals. The BLM also prohibits mineral materials disposal within 3 miles or in view within 5 miles of important cultural sites. Under Alternative B, areas within 5 miles of trails and sites eligible for listing on the NRHP and Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP) are exclusion areas for renewable energy development (specifically wind turbines), unless structures are screened from the sites by intervening topography. The BLM attaches Standard Paleontological Resources Protection Stipulations to authorizations for surface-disturbing activities in all areas, regardless of PFYC. This alternative also requires an on-the-ground survey before approval of surface-disturbing activities or land-disposal actions, and monitoring of surface-disturbing activities for PFYC 3, 4, and 5 formations. The BLM prohibits surface-disturbing activities within 100 feet of the outer edge of a paleontological locality and prohibits the resumption of activity within 100 feet of a paleontological discovery until the authorized officer issues a written authorization to proceed.

Compared to Alternative A, Alternative B manages more acreage as VRM Class I and II areas which allow only a low level of change to the characteristic landscape. The class allocations for BLM-administered surface lands include 154,359 acres of VRM Class I, 1,784,854 acres of VRM Class II, 394,106 acres of VRM Class III, and 858,263 acres of VRM Class IV. Under Alternative B, 37 acres are unclassified.

Under this alternative, the BLM specifically manages all lands with wilderness characteristics to preserve their wilderness characteristics (naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude, and primitive and unconfined recreation); and applies additional stipulations on travel, mineral resource use, and ROW authorizations in these areas.

2.6.3 Alternative C

Overview of the Alternative

Alternative C emphasizes resource uses and reduces constraints on resource uses to protect physical, biological, and heritage and visual resources. Compared to other alternatives, Alternative C conserves the least land area for physical, biological, and heritage resources; designates the fewest ACECs and SRMAs; and is the least restrictive to motorized vehicle use and energy and mineral development.

Resource Uses and Support

Under Alternative C, 4,155,119 acres are available and 48,095 acres are withdrawn or would be recommended for withdrawal or extension of an existing withdrawal from locatable mineral entry; existing withdrawals and segregations not carried forward are allowed to expire. In addition, approximately 145,836 acres of federal mineral estate are closed to oil and gas leasing in the Planning Area. The remaining federal mineral estate in the Planning Area is open to oil and gas leasing subject to the following constraints: 2,565,742 acres are subject to the standard lease form, 1,334,491 acres are subject to moderate constraints, and 91,956 acres are subject to major constraints. Alternative C delineates Oil and Gas Management Areas around intensively-developed existing fields, and the BLM manages these areas primarily for oil and gas exploration and development, with all other surface uses considered secondary. This alternative makes 3,859,251 acres available for mineral materials disposal, while 343,962 acres are closed to mineral materials disposal.

Land resource management actions under Alternative C identify 117,845 acres in the Planning Area as available for disposal. The BLM manages approximately 1,173,162 acres as ROW avoidance areas and 7,586 acres as ROW exclusion areas. Under Alternative C, 1,428,360 acres are open to renewable energy development. Travel management under Alternative C includes fewer travel restrictions than other alternatives. Under Alternative C, the BLM closes 9,274 acres of BLM-administered land to motorized vehicle use, limits 2,137,574 acres to existing roads and trails, limits 1,020,748 acres to designated roads and trails, and opens 14,830 acres to motorized vehicle use. The BLM closes areas to over-snow vehicle travel on a case-by-case basis.

Areas open to surface-disturbing activity on a case-by-case basis include hunting and fishing access areas, Five Springs Falls Campground, the Cody Archery Range, and the R&PP lease area for the Lovell Rod and Gun Club. Alternative C includes the most development of recreation sites, including the addition of interpretive sites, facilities, and additional amenities, and the addition or upgrade of existing recreation sites. Under Alternative C, Rattlesnake Ridge is the only SRMA (7,996 acres) in the Planning Area. ERMAs under Alternative C include Basin Gardens (15,349 acres), and Basin Gardens Play Area (4,421 acres). All other non-designated land is managed under other multiple-use objectives.

Under Alternative C, the Planning Area is closed to livestock grazing in the same areas as Alternative A. Livestock grazing is not managed specifically to enhance other resource values by restricting livestock grazing. Alternative C allows the use of salt, mineral, or forage supplements to maximize livestock utilization, and the use of produced water on a case-by-case basis.

Special Designations

Alternative C carries forward current management of the existing Brown/Howe Dinosaur Area and Spanish Point Karst ACECs, the Heart Mountain Relocation Center National Historic Landmark, the Nez Perce NHT, and the Red Gulch/Alkali Road National Back Country Byway, with additional protective management applied in some areas. The alternative does not retain other ACECs or designated trails and does not propose expansions or additional areas. Under this alternative, the BLM manages none of the 20 WSR eligible waterways as suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS and releases these areas to other uses. Alternative C limits motorized vehicle use to designated roads and trails within the 10 WSAs.

Physical, Biological, Heritage and Visual Resources, and Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Under Alternative C, the BLM generally manages physical resources similar to Alternative A, but with fewer management requirements and more allowance for the case-by-case application of management actions. Under Alternative C, the BLM seeds areas that do not meet resource objectives using approved nonnative and native species and requires 30 percent desired vegetative cover within three growing seasons. The BLM considers reclamation plans and topsoil salvage and segregation on a case-by-case basis. Under this alternative, the BLM would assess erosion and soil stability during rangeland health evaluations but would not require photo point monitoring of surface disturbance. Alternative C authorizes new activities resulting in the surface discharge of produced water, and allows the beneficial use of produced water in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and at the discretion of the BLM and its stakeholders.

The BLM would not manage to maintain contiguous blocks of native plant communities or minimize fragmentation. Under Alternative C, the *Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands* would guide the management of vegetation resources with an emphasis on appropriate function structural groups as defined in BLM Technical Reference 1734-6, *Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health* (BLM 2005c). Under this alternative, the BLM allows surface-disturbing activities in flood plains or riparian/wetland areas on a case-by-case basis and prohibits the aerial application of pesticides within 100 feet of riparian/wetland areas and aquatic habitats.

Under Alternative C, the BLM applies similar restrictions to protect fisheries as Alternative A, including applying an NSO restriction and managing surface-disturbing activities using standard restrictions within 500 feet of surface water and riparian areas. Alternative C requires identification and management of migration and travel corridors for big game species and migratory birds, but does not specify protective measures. This alternative exempts Oil and Gas Management Areas and ROW corridors from discretionary wildlife seasonal stipulations and allows the BLM to manage motorized vehicle use in big game crucial winter range consistent with other resource objectives. Under this alternative, the Absaroka Front Management Area (130,872 acres) is open to mineral entry and ROW authorizations, with some seasonal restrictions.

Special status species generally receive similar protection under Alternative C as under Alternative A. Under Alternative C, the BLM applies the same prohibitions (outside of Oil and Gas Management Areas and ROW corridors) on surface-disturbing and disruptive activities for occupied greater sage-grouse leks and the same timing restrictions for greater sage-grouse winter concentration areas as under Alternative A. The BLM manages motorized vehicle use in greater sage-grouse Key Habitat Areas consistent with other resource objectives, and applies timing limitations (TLS) to avoid surface-disturbing activities within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of active raptor nests (during nesting and fledging periods). The BLM only implements protective measures for white- and black-tailed prairie dog colonies in the Sage Creek Town area. For special status plant species, the BLM prohibits range improvement projects and other

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surface-disturbing activities within 300 feet and prohibits aerial application of pesticides within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile (vehicle and hand application is allowed on a case-by-case basis) of known populations of special status plant species.

Wild horse management under Alternative C places a greater emphasis on public viewing and other resource uses than under other alternatives. Under this alternative, the BLM actively promotes opportunities for public viewing within the McCullough Peaks HMA and allows SRP activities in both HMAs. As required by national policy, the BLM does not allow wild horse gathers between March 1 and June 30.

Alternative C establishes set buffers around cultural sites, but, similar to Alternative A, requires the BLM to balance the protection of cultural and paleontological resources with resource development. Around important cultural sites, the BLM applies an NSO restriction within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile and a CSU stipulation within 1 mile for leasable minerals. Similarly, Alternative C prohibits mineral materials disposals within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile or in view within 1 mile of important cultural sites. Alternative C manages areas within 5 miles of trails and sites eligible for listing on the NRHP and TCPs as avoidance areas for renewable energy development (specifically wind turbines), unless structures are screened from the site by intervening topography. Under Alternative C, the BLM attaches Standard Paleontological Resources Protection Stipulations to authorizations for surface-disturbing activities in PFYC 4 or 5 areas. This alternative also requires an on-the-ground survey before approval of surface-disturbing activities or land-disposal actions, and monitoring of surface-disturbing activities for PFYC 5 formations. Similar to Alternative A, the BLM prohibits surface-disturbing activities within 50 feet of the outer edge of a paleontological locality and prohibits the resumption of activity within 50 feet of a paleontological discovery until the authorized officer issues written authorization.

Under Alternative C, the BLM manages the least amount of acreage as VRM Class I and II. The class allocations for BLM-administered surface lands include 140,976 acres of VRM Class I, 333,027 acres of VRM Class II, 510,535 acres of VRM Class III, and 2,202,825 acres of VRM Class IV. Under Alternative C, 37 acres are unclassified (i.e., water or under other federal agency jurisdiction). Alternative C focuses on resource development and enhanced opportunity for responsible use of public land resources and does not manage any lands with wilderness characteristics specifically to maintain their wilderness characteristics.

2.6.4 Alternative D (Proposed RMP)

Overview of the Alternative

Alternative D generally increases conservation of physical, biological, and heritage and visual resources compared to current management, including the designation of one SMA, two Management Areas, and 12 ACECs. Alternative D also emphasizes moderate constraints on resource uses and reclamation and mitigation requirements to reduce impacts to resource values.

Resource Uses and Support

Under Alternative D, 4,120,325 acres are available for locatable mineral entry, while 83,321 acres are withdrawn or would be recommended for withdrawal or extension of existing withdrawals; existing withdrawals and segregations not carried forward would be allowed to expire. In addition, approximately 292,353 acres of federal mineral estate are closed to oil and gas leasing in the Planning Area. The remaining federal mineral estate in the Planning Area is open to oil and gas leasing subject to

the following constraints: 911,814 acres are subject to the standard lease form, 1,714,685 acres are subject to moderate constraints, and 1,221,142 acres are subject to major constraints. Alternative D delineates Oil and Gas Management Areas to be managed primarily for oil and gas exploration and development. Alternative D refines stipulations for protections of big game, geologic features, recreation, and LRP soils for oil and gas-related surface disturbances within the Absaroka Front (130,872 acres), Fifteenmile (180,186 acres), and Big Horn Front (379,308 acres) Master Leasing Plan (MLP) Analysis Areas. This alternative makes 3,828,320 acres available for mineral materials disposal, while 374,894 acres are closed to mineral materials disposal.

Land resource program actions under Alternative D identify 66,363 acres of BLM-administered land in the Planning Area as available for disposal. Under Alternative D, the BLM manages 2,408,662 acres as ROW avoidance areas and 40,802 acres as ROW exclusion areas. Under Alternative D, 1,315,309 acres are open to renewable energy development. Travel management designations under Alternative D include 61,010 acres closed to motorized vehicle use, 1,955,943 acres limited to existing roads and trails, 1,159,557 acres limited to designated roads and trails, and 5,885 acres open to motorized vehicle use. Similar to Alternative A, the BLM considers areas open to over-snow vehicles on a case-by-case basis.

Alternative D designates more recreation management areas than Alternative A, including SRMAs, Recreation Management Zones (RMZ), and ERMAs. Other resource uses such as minerals development are typically allowed to occur within these areas if the adverse impacts can be mitigated. An NSO restriction is applied to all developed recreation sites, national and regional trails, local trail systems, and interpretive sites with exceptional recreation value. Under Alternative D the BLM maintains 13 SRMAs: Absaroka Mountain Foothills (42,615 acres), Badlands (211,516 acres), Bighorn River (2,496 acres), West Slope (320,704 acres in CYFO), Rivers (6,047 acres), McCullough Peaks (160,838 acres), Basin Gardens Play Area (4,421 acres), Canyon Creek (3,675 acres), Horse Pasture (144 acres), Middle Fork of the Powder River (14,644 acres), West Slope (190,928 acres in WFO), Beck Lake (6,473 acres), and Newton Lake Ridge (1,949 acres). All land not included in a SRMA or within the Absaroka, Bighorn River, Rattlesnake Ridge, Red Canyon Creek, or Southern Bighorns ERMAs, is managed under other multiple-use objectives.

Under Alternative D, the BLM closes the same acreage in the Planning Area to livestock grazing as Alternative A (5,009 acres). However, unlike Alternative A, grazing is allowed in closed areas as a tool to maintain or improve resource conditions. To reduce user conflict, new resource uses are mitigated to minimize or avoid conflict with livestock grazing.

Special Designations

Alternative D includes 12 ACECs – the nine existing areas and three new ACECs. The three proposed ACECs are Clarks Fork Canyon; Paleocene, Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM); and Sheep Mountain. Alternative D would also designate the Chapman Bench Management Area for the retention and success of sensitive species habitat and would manage a portion of the Little Mountain area as the Craig Thomas Little Mountain SMA. Table 2-7 summarizes acreages and management emphasis in each of these ACECs and other management areas. Similar to Alternative C, Red Gulch/Alkali Road will continue to be managed as a National Back Country Byway, whereas other proposed roads will not be managed as byways. Alternative D does not designate additional back country byways, but would consider the designation of new back country byways in the future. Alternative D would also provide similar but less protective measures than Alternative B for the Heart Mountain Relocation Center National Historic Landmark, Nez Perce NHT, and Other Trails. Under Alternative D, the BLM finds no WSR eligible waterways suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS, and does not continue interim management to protect

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their outstanding remarkable values and free-flowing characteristics. Alternative D limits motorized vehicle use to designated roads and trails within six WSAs and closes four WSAs to motorized vehicle use.

Physical, Biological, Heritage and Visual Resources, and Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Under Alternative D, management of physical resources emphasizes moderate constraints on resource uses and mitigation of impacts. Reclamation practices include beginning interim and final reclamation at the earliest feasible times and, in disturbed areas, reestablishing healthy native or desired plant communities based on predisturbance/desired plant species composition. The BLM requires reclamation plans, stipulations, or measures prior to approval of authorized surface-disturbing activities. Similar to Alternative A, the BLM assesses erosion and soil stability during rangeland health evaluations and allows the surface discharge of produced water from new activities, where compatible with other resource objectives.

Management of biological resources under Alternative D emphasizes protection through avoidance and mitigation of surface-disturbing activity and moderate resource constraints. For example, Alternative D avoids surface-disturbing activities within big game crucial winter range, but exempts Oil and Gas Management Areas from discretionary big game seasonal stipulations. Similar to Alternative A, surface-disturbing activities are prohibited within the 500 feet of surface water and wetland/riparian areas, although exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis. The BLM also applies an NSO restriction on wetland areas greater than 20 acres and designated 100-year flood plains. Aerial applications of pesticides are allowed within wetland/riparian areas on a case-by-case basis. Vegetation resources are managed to maintain contiguous blocks of native plant communities. Under Alternative D, ESDs are emphasized in the management of vegetation resources in plant communities determined to be meeting Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands manage to maintain or improve those communities, as described in the appropriate ESD. For fish species, the BLM avoids surface-disturbing activities within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of any waters rated by the WGFD as Blue Ribbon or Red Ribbon fisheries and applies a 500-foot buffer to all other fisheries. Alternative D would manage the Absaroka Front Management Area with a mix of CSU, TLS, and NSO stipulations as well as areas that are closed mineral leasing.

Special status species generally receive greater protection under Alternative D than under Alternative A. For greater sage-grouse, constraints on resource uses are greater within PHMAs than outside PHMAs. For example, the BLM would apply a NSO stipulation to prohibit surface-disturbing activities within a 0.6-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied greater sage-grouse leks within PHMAs and within $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile radius of the perimeter of greater sage-grouse leks outside PHMAs. The BLM would also apply a goal of consolidating development to maintain greater sage-grouse habitat. To protect raptor habitat, the BLM would apply species specific protective buffers of up to 1 mile of active raptor nests during nesting periods and a year-round $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile CSU stipulation on all raptor nests. Under Alternative D, the BLM applies an NSO restriction on suitable habitat for black-footed ferret reintroduction and on the Sage Creek Prairie Dog Town. The BLM requires avoidance of range improvement projects and aerial application of herbicides within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, respectively, of BLM special status plant species populations.

Wild horse management under Alternative D balances providing opportunities for public viewing of wild horses with protection of horse health. Opportunities for public viewing, education, and interpretation of wild horses are promoted within the McCullough Peaks HMA, but SRPs using domestic horses would be prohibited within the McCullough Peaks HMA and avoided within the Fifteenmile HMA. Under this

alternative, the BLM applies seasonal restrictions on surface-disturbing activities to prevent foal abandonment and jeopardy of wild horse health and welfare.

Cultural and paleontological resources generally receive more protection under Alternative D than Alternative A. The BLM protects the foreground of important cultural sites up to 3 miles, using BLM approved BMPs to avoid or mitigate adverse impacts from mineral development or other surface-disturbing activity. The BLM attaches Standard Paleontological Resources Protection Stipulations to authorizations for surface-disturbing activities regardless of PFYC formation and requires an on-the-ground survey prior to approval of surface-disturbing activities or land-disposal actions for all PFYC 4 and 5 formations. Monitoring of surface-disturbing activities for PFYC 4 and 5 formations would be conducted. The BLM allows surface-disturbing activities within 100 feet of a paleontological locality if the impacts can be adequately mitigated but prohibits the resumption of activity within 100 feet of a paleontological discovery until the authorized officer issues a written authorization to proceed.

Under Alternative D, the BLM manages more acres as VRM Class I and II than Alternative A. The class allocations for BLM-administered surface lands include 141,127 acres of VRM Class I, 731,812 acres of VRM Class II, 738,531 acres of VRM Class III, and 1,580,470 acres of VRM Class IV. Under Alternative D, 37 acres are unclassified.

Like Alternative C, Alternative D does not manage any lands with wilderness characteristics to maintain their wilderness characteristics.

2.6.5 Alternative E

Overview of the Alternative

Alternative E is the same as Alternative B outside of greater sage-grouse Key Habitat Areas. Within greater sage-grouse Key Habitat Areas, Alternative E includes additional management actions and designates the area as an ACEC. Alternative E emphasizes conservation of physical, biological, heritage and visual resources, and lands with wilderness characteristics with constraints on resource uses.

Resource Uses and Support

Management of activities associated with mineral resource exploration, development, and extraction are the same as described under Alternative B, except within greater sage-grouse Key Habitat Areas (1,232,583 acres) where locatable withdrawals and closure to mineral materials disposal would reduce the area available for mineral exploitation more than under any other alternative (see Table 2-6 for comparative land use acreages by alternative). Under Alternative E, 2,433,901 acres are available and 1,759,312 acres are recommended for withdrawal or extension of an existing withdrawal from locatable mineral entry. Alternative E does not delineate Oil and Gas Management Areas and manages leasable minerals the same as Alternative B. Alternative E makes 1,059,062 acres available for mineral materials disposal, while 3,144,151 acres are closed to mineral materials disposal.

Land resource program actions under Alternative E identify 24,042 acres of BLM-administered land in the Planning Area as available for disposal through land tenure adjustments. The BLM manages 1,610,792 acres as rights-of-way (ROW) avoidance areas and 1,322,879 acres as ROW exclusion areas. Under Alternative E, 254,151 acres are open and 1,945,204 acres are closed to renewable energy development.

Alternatives Summary

Under Alternative E, travel management designations, including areas open to motorized vehicle use and over-snow travel, are the same as Alternative B; however, Alternative E prohibits new road construction within 4 miles of active greater sage-grouse leks and requires the development of travel management plans that minimize impacts to greater sage-grouse habitat. In addition, routes within greater sage-grouse Key Habitat Areas would be managed under a seasonal closure restricting motorized use from March 15 through June 30.

Recreation management is the same as under Alternative B, except within greater sage-grouse Key Habitat Areas where the BLM requires that Special Recreation Permits have neutral or beneficial effects to sage-grouse habitat. Alternative E manages livestock grazing the same as Alternative B, including the closure of greater sage-grouse Key Habitat Areas.

Special Designations

Special designations under Alternative E include those identified under Alternative B with the addition of the Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC, which consists of BLM-administered land within the greater sage-grouse Key Habitat Areas. Under Alternative E, the BLM applies various constraints to resource uses within the Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC to conserve greater sage-grouse and its habitat, including limiting anthropogenic disturbance to one disturbance per 640 acres and 3 percent or less of total sage-grouse habitat; recommending withdrawal from mineral entry and closure to livestock grazing; prohibiting mineral material disposals; and managing the ACEC as ROW and renewable energy exclusion areas.

Alternative E includes 18 ACECs – the nine existing areas (five of which the BLM proposes for expansion) and nine new ACECs. The five existing ACECs the BLM proposes to expand are Brown/Howe Dinosaur Area, Carter Mountain, Five Springs Falls, Little Mountain, and Upper Owl Creek. The nine proposed ACECs are Chapman Bench, Clarks Fork Basin/Polecat Bench West Paleontological Area, Clarks Fork Canyon, Foster Gulch Paleontological Area, McCullough Peaks South Paleontological Area, Rainbow Canyon, Rattlesnake Mountain, Sheep Mountain, and Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas. Table 2-7 summarizes acreages and management emphasis in each of these ACECs.

Physical, Biological, Heritage and Visual Resources, and Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Alternative E implements the same resource protection measures as Alternative B, but with additional management to emphasize the conservation of greater sage-grouse priority habitat areas through the Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC. The scale of the this additional ACEC and the limitations on surface disturbances and road development, as well as withdrawal of locatable minerals, closure to mineral materials disposal, ROW development, and renewable energy development it includes, result in greater overall resource protection under Alternative E than under the other alternatives.

Fire and fuels management, habitat restoration/vegetation management, and invasive species management actions under Alternative E are the same as Alternative B, but with additional emphasis on greater sage-grouse habitat objectives within the Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC. For example, fuels management activities under this alternative must maintain at least 15 percent of sagebrush cover and evaluate the benefits of fuel breaks against the additional loss of sagebrush cover.

The management of physical resources, heritage and visual resources, and lands with wilderness characteristics is consistent with Alternative B.

2.6.6 Alternative F

Overview of the Alternative

Alternative F is the same as Alternative D outside of greater sage-grouse PHMAs. Within greater sage-grouse PHMAs, Alternative F includes additional management actions and designates these areas as an ACEC. Alternative F generally emphasizes conservation of physical, biological, and heritage and visual resources compared to current management, while placing moderate constraints on resource uses and reclamation and mitigation requirements to reduce impacts to resource values.

Resource Uses and Support

Management of activities associated with mineral resource exploration, development, and extraction are the same as described under Alternative D. Under Alternative F, 324,829 acres of federal mineral estate are closed to oil and gas leasing in the Planning Area. The remaining federal mineral estate in the Planning Area is open to oil and gas leasing subject to the following constraints: 912,328 acres are subject to the standard lease form, 1,709,652 acres are subject to moderate constraints, and 1,191,215 acres are subject to major constraints. Alternative F designates 438,863 acres as Oil and Gas Management areas. These areas are managed primarily for oil and gas exploration and development except where these areas are overlapped by the Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs ACEC, in which case the BLM would apply protective management actions consistent with the ACEC designation. Alternative F applies MLPs to the same areas and acreages as Alternative D for the protection of big game, geologic features, and LRP soils; the Absaroka Front, Fifteenmile, and Big Horn Front areas. The management of locatable and salable mineral resources is the same as Alternative D.

Land resource program actions under Alternative F identify 66,363 acres of BLM-administered land in the Planning Area as available for disposal through land tenure adjustments. The BLM manages 2,315,730 acres as ROW avoidance areas and 133,734 acres as ROW exclusion areas. Under Alternative F, 607,429 acres are open to renewable energy development and 292,949 acres are renewable energy development exclusion areas.

Travel management designations under Alternative F include 61,010 acres closed to motorized vehicle use, 1,295,072 acres limited to existing roads and trails, 1,820,427 acres limited to designated roads and trails, and 5,885 acres open to motorized vehicle use. Motorized vehicle use in the Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs ACEC is limited to designated roads and trails and the construction of new primary roads would be prohibited within 1.9 miles of greater sage-grouse leks. Similar to alternatives A and D, the BLM considers areas open to over-snow vehicles on a case-by-case basis.

Recreation management is the same as under Alternative D, except within greater sage-grouse PHMAs where the BLM requires that Special Recreation Permits have neutral or beneficial effects to greater sage-grouse habitat. The BLM closes the same acreage in the Planning Area to livestock grazing as alternatives A and D (5,009 acres). Alternative F manages grazing lands consistent with Alternative D, except in the Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs ACEC where the BLM prioritizes the consideration of sage-grouse habitat objectives and management considerations over livestock grazing objectives through the imposition of restrictions on livestock grazing location and timing, and range improvement projects.

Special Designations

Special designations under Alternative F include those identified under Alternative D with the addition of a Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs ACEC, which consists of public lands within greater sage-grouse PHMAs. Alternative F implements various resource protection measures within greater sage-grouse PHMAs; however, constraints on resource uses in priority sage-grouse habitats under Alternative F are generally more moderate than those under alternatives E and B. For example, PHMAs are available for fluid mineral leasing under Alternative F subject to NSO and TLS restrictions, whereas alternatives E and B close Key Habitat Areas to fluid mineral leasing. Similarly, whereas Alternative E prohibits the construction of above-ground transmission lines in greater sage-grouse priority habitat areas, Alternative F allows the construction of above-ground transmission lines subject to seasonal restrictions.

Alternative F includes 13 ACECs – the nine existing areas and four new ACECs. The four proposed ACECs are Clarks Fork Canyon, PETM, Sheep Mountain, and Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs. Table 2-7 summarizes acreages and management emphasis in each of these ACECs and other management areas.

Physical, Biological, Heritage and Visual Resources, and Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Alternative F places similar constraints on resource uses that affect biological resources as Alternative D, but proposes additional management to emphasize the conservation of greater sage-grouse habitat through the designation of the Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs ACEC. As discussed above, Alternative F applies additional limitations on surface disturbance and disruptive activities within the Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs ACEC. Fire and fuels management, habitat restoration and/or vegetation management, and invasive species management actions under Alternative F are the same as Alternative D, but with additional emphasis on sage-grouse habitat objectives within the Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs ACEC.

The management of physical resources, heritage and visual resources, and lands with wilderness characteristics are the same as Alternative D.

2.7 Detailed Descriptions of Alternatives by Resource

This section is comprised of two tables. To assist the reader in maneuvering through the alternatives, Table 2-8 lists key terms and concepts by resource topic (such as CSU, easements, and erosion/sediment control) and directs readers to the locations in Table 2-9 that address the term. Table 2-9 identifies goals and objectives, management actions common to all alternatives, and management actions by alternative. Table 2-9 is arranged according to the following resource topics:

Number	Resource Topic
0000	Common to All
1000	Physical Resources (PR)
2000	Mineral Resources (MR)
3000	Fire and Fuels Management (FM)
4000	Biological Resources (BR)
5000	Heritage and Visual Resources (HR)
6000	Land Resources (LR)
7000	Special Designations (SD)
8000	Socioeconomic Resources (SR)

This numbering system and the abbreviations for each of the eight resource topics appear as headings and serve to organize Table 2-9. The goals and objectives listed in the table apply to all four alternatives under consideration for the entire Planning Area and would apply for the life of this RMP.

Management actions are anticipated to achieve the goals and objectives identified for each resource topic. Some management actions are constant across all alternatives (common to all), whereas others vary by alternative. Management actions that apply to all alternatives are listed for each resource topic under the heading Management Actions Common to All Alternatives immediately following the goals and objectives for each resource topic. Management actions that vary by alternative are listed under the heading Management Actions by Alternative.

Because the Bighorn Basin RMP Revision Project is a combined effort to revise RMPs for both the CYFO and WFO, management actions might apply to one or both field offices. Table 2-9 designates management actions that apply to the CYFO with an X in the column labeled C, and designates management actions that apply to the WFO with an X in the column labeled W.

Actions apply for the life of this RMP, but can be changed via RMP amendments. For example, areas identified as closed to mineral leasing refer to federal mineral estate closed from leasing for the life of this RMP unless changed through an RMP amendment. Furthermore, where the RMP places seasonal or other restrictions or limitations on development, the authorized officer may issue written exceptions, waivers, or modifications to these limitations, including documented supporting analysis (Appendix G).

Table 2-8. Key Terms and Concepts by Resource Topic

Term or Concept	Resource Topic
Abandoned Mine Lands	Public Health and Safety
Aspen	Forest, Woodlands, and Forest Products; Fish and Wildlife
Black-footed ferret	Special Status Species
Best Management Practice (BMP)	Air Quality; Soil Resources; Water Resources; Mineral Resources; Forest, Woodlands, and Forest Products; Riparian/Wetland Resources; Special Status Species; Visual Resource Management; Renewable Energy; ROW and Corridors; Livestock Grazing Management
Classification	Mineral Resources; Lands and Realty
Conveyance	Lands and Realty; Public Health and Safety
Cooperation with agencies/governments/landowners/stakeholders	Water Resources; Fire and Fuels Management; Invasive Species; Fish and Wildlife; Special Status Species; Cultural Resources; Renewable Energy; ROW and Corridors; Livestock Grazing Management; National Back Country Byways; National Historic Trails; WSAs; Social and Economic
Crucial winter range	Fish and Wildlife; Livestock Grazing Management; ACECs
Controlled surface use (CSU)	Mineral Resources; Fish and Wildlife; Special Status Species; Cultural Resources; Recreation; National Historic Landmark; National Historic Trails
Desert Land Act	Lands and Realty
Disposal (Land)	Paleontological Resources; Lands and Realty; ACECs; Wild and Scenic Rivers

Detailed Descriptions of Alternatives by Resource

Table 2-8. Key Terms and Concepts by Resource Topic (Continued)

Term or Concept	Resource Topic
Disposal (Mineral Materials)	Mineral Resources; Cultural Resources; Recreation; Lands with Wilderness Characteristics; ACECs; National Historic Landmark; National Historic Trails and Scenic Trails; Wild and Scenic Rivers
Easement	Visual Resource Management; Lands and Realty; ROW and Corridors; Recreation; Livestock Grazing Management
Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA)	Cave and Karst Resources; Recreation
Erosion/sediment control	Soil Resources; Water Resources; Riparian/Wetland Resources; Fish and Wildlife
Fire suppression	Fire and Fuels Management; Special Status Species; Cultural Resources; ACECs
Geologic hazards	Public Health and Safety
Geophysical exploration	Common to All; Mineral Resources; Fish and Wildlife; Special Status Species; Recreation; ACECs; Wild and Scenic Rivers
Geothermal	Mineral Resources; ACECs
Greater sage-grouse	Fire and Fuels Management; Fish and Wildlife; Special Status Species; Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management; Livestock Grazing Management; ACECs
Invasive nonnative pest species/weeds	Fire and Fuels Management; Invasive Species; Fish and Wildlife; Special Status Species; ACECs; Lands with Wilderness Characteristics; Livestock Grazing Management
Juniper	Forest, Woodlands, and Forest Products; Grasslands and Shrublands
Priority and Key Habitat Areas (greater sage-grouse)	Special Status Species; ACECs
Livestock grazing	Forest, Woodlands, and Forest Products; Riparian/Wetland Resources; Grasslands and Shrublands; Fish and Wildlife; Lands with Wilderness Characteristics; Livestock Grazing Management; ACECs; Social and Economic
Migration corridors	Fish and Wildlife; Lands and Realty
Mineral leasing/lease (leasable minerals)	Mineral Resources; Fish and Wildlife; Special Status Species; Recreation; Lands with Wilderness Characteristics; ACECs; National Historic Landmark; Wild and Scenic Rivers; WSAs; Social and Economic
Mitigation	Common to All; Air Quality; Soil Resources; Water Resources; Mineral Resources; Riparian/Wetland Resources; Forest, Woodlands, and Forest Products; Fish and Wildlife; Special Status Species; Wild Horses; Cultural Resources; Visual Resource Management; Lands and Realty; National Historic Trails; Recreation; ACECs; Social and Economic; Public Health and Safety
Motorized vehicle use closed	Cave and Karst Resources; Visual Resource Management; Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management; Recreation; ACECs; Wild and Scenic Rivers; WSAs
Motorized vehicle use limited to designated roads and trails	Cave and Karst Resources; Fish and Wildlife; Special Status Species; Cultural Resources; Visual Resource Management; Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management; Recreation; Lands with Wilderness Characteristics; ACECs; National Historic Trails and Scenic Trails; Wild and Scenic Rivers; WSAs
Motorized vehicle use limited to existing roads and trails	Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management; Recreation; ACECs; Wild and Scenic Rivers; WSAs
Motorized vehicle use open	Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management; Recreation

Table 2-8. Key Terms and Concepts by Resource Topic (Continued)

Term or Concept	Resource Topic
Motorized vehicle use seasonal closure	Fish and Wildlife; Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management; ACECs; Social and Economic
No surface occupancy (NSO)	Mineral Resources; Riparian/Wetland Resources; Fish and Wildlife; Special Status Species; Cultural Resources; Recreation; ACECs; National Historic Trails and Scenic Trails; Wild and Scenic Rivers
Oil and Gas Management Areas	Mineral Resources; Fish and Wildlife; Special Status Species
Pesticide application	Water Resources; Invasive Species; Fish and Wildlife; Special Status Species
Plant community/communities	Soil Resources; Grasslands and Shrublands; Invasive Species; Special Status Species
Prairie dog	Fish and Wildlife; Special Status Species
Prescribed burn/fire	Air Quality; Fire and Fuels Management; Lands with Wilderness Characteristics; ACECs
Produced water	Water Resources; Fish and Wildlife; Livestock Grazing Management; Public Health and Safety
Public access	Fish and Wildlife; ROW and Corridors; Comprehensive Travel and Transportation; Recreation; Lands with Wilderness Characteristics; ACECs; National Historic Trails and Scenic Trails; Social and Economic
Range improvements (fencing, reservoirs, vegetation treatments)	Water Resources; Fish and Wildlife; Special Status Species; Wild Horses; Livestock Grazing Management; ACECs; Wild and Scenic Rivers; WSAs
Rangeland	Soil Resources; Grasslands and Shrublands; Lands with Wilderness Characteristics; Livestock Grazing Management
Renewable energy (wind, biomass, solar)	Leasable Minerals – Geothermal; Fish and Wildlife; Cultural Resources; Renewable Energy; Recreation; ACECs; WSAs
Rock art	Cultural Resources; Fire and Fuels Management
Rights-of-way (ROW) avoidance	Cave and Karst Resources; Fish and Wildlife; Special Status Species; Cultural Resources; Lands and Realty; National Historic Trails; ROW and Corridors; Recreation; Lands with Wilderness Characteristics; ACECs; Wild and Scenic Rivers; WSAs
Rights-of-way (ROW) exclusion	Fish and Wildlife; National Historic Trails; Renewable Energy; ROW and Corridors; Recreation; ACECs; Wild and Scenic Rivers
Rights-of-way (ROW) open	Recreation; National Historic Trails; Wild and Scenic Rivers
Sagebrush	Fire and Fuels Management; Vegetation; Grassland and Shrubland; Fish and Wildlife; Special Status Species
Seeding/reclamation	Soil Resources; Invasive Species; Special Status Species; Wild and Scenic Rivers; Mineral Resources; Fish and Wildlife; Public Health and Safety
Segregation	Lands and Realty
Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA)	Cave and Karst Resources; Recreation
Surface-disturbing/surface disturbance	Common to All; Soil Resources; Water Resources; Mineral Resources; Forest, Woodlands, and Forest Products; Riparian/Wetland Resources; Fish and Wildlife; Special Status Species; Wild Horses; Cultural Resources; Paleontological Resources; Visual Resource Management; Recreation; Lands with Wilderness Characteristics; Livestock Grazing Management; ACECs; National Historic Landmark; National Historic Trails and Scenic Trails; Wild and Scenic Rivers

Detailed Descriptions of Alternatives by Resource

Table 2-8. Key Terms and Concepts by Resource Topic (Continued)

Term or Concept	Resource Topic
Timber harvest/firewood (personal use)/poles	Forest, Woodlands, and Forest Products; Wild and Scenic Rivers; Lands with Wilderness Characteristics
Timing limitations (TLS)	Fish and Wildlife; Special Status Species
Vegetation treatment	Fire and Fuels Management; Forest, Woodlands, and Forest Products; Invasive Species; Fish and Wildlife; Lands with Wilderness Characteristics; Livestock Grazing Management; Wild and Scenic Rivers
Visual resource management (VRM)	Visual Resource Management; Recreation; Lands with Wilderness Characteristics; National Historic Trails; ACECs; Wild and Scenic Rivers; WSAs
Water quality	Water Resources; Fire and Fuels Management; Riparian/Wetland Resources; Wild and Scenic Rivers
Well (oil and gas)	Water Resources; Mineral Resources; Special Status Species; Social and Economic; Public Health and Safety
Well (water)	Water Resources
Withdrawal	Mineral Resources; Cultural Resources; Lands and Realty; Recreation; Livestock Grazing Management; ACECs; National Back Country Byways; National Historic Landmark; Wild and Scenic Rivers
Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands	Soil Resources; Water Resources; Grasslands and Shrublands; Riparian/Wetland Resources; Fish and Wildlife; Wild Horses; Recreation; Lands with Wilderness Characteristics; Livestock Grazing Management

ACEC Area of Critical Environmental Concern
WSA Wilderness Study Area

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives

0000 COMMON TO ALL						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES						
0001	X	X	PR:3.1 MR:1.1 MR:1.3 MR:3.1	Surface-disturbing activities are subject to the Wyoming BLM Mitigation Guidelines for Surface-Disturbing and Disruptive Activities, the Wyoming BLM Reclamation Policy, and the Wyoming DEQ-WQD's Storm Water Permitting Program.		
0002	X	X	SD:1 SD5.1 BR:7.1 BR:7.6 BR:8.2 BR:9.1 BR:9.2	The BLM may pursue a withdrawal from appropriation under the mining laws for locatable minerals within ACECs, recommended WSR suitable waterway segments, and special status species habitat on a case-by-case basis.		
0003	X	X	MR:1 MR:1.2 MR:2 BR:6 BR:6.1 BR:7 LR:2.1 LR:3.1	Utilize recommendations found in WGFD documents <i>Recommendations for Development of Oil and Gas Resources within Crucial and Important Wildlife Habitats</i> (WGFD 2010b), <i>Wildlife Protection Recommendations for Wind Energy Development in Wyoming</i> (WGFD 2010c), and similar documents updated over time where determined applicable and consistent with valid existing rights.		

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

1000 PHYSICAL RESOURCES (PR) – Air Quality						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
GOAL PR:1	Minimize the impact of management actions in the Planning Area on air quality by complying with all applicable air quality laws, rules, and regulations.					
Objectives:	<p>PR:1.1 Maintain concentrations of criteria pollutants in compliance with applicable state and federal Ambient Air Quality Standards within the scope of BLM's authority.</p> <p>PR:1.2 Maintain concentrations of PSD pollutants associated with management actions in compliance with the applicable increment.</p>					
GOAL PR:2	Improve air quality in the Planning Area as practicable.					
Objectives:	<p>PR:2.1 Reduce visibility-impairing pollutants in accordance with the reasonable progress goals and time-frames established within the State of Wyoming's Regional Haze State Implementation Plan.</p> <p>PR:2.2 Reduce atmospheric deposition pollutants to levels below generally accepted levels of concern and levels of acceptable change.</p>					
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES						
1001	X	X	PR:1	Manage prescribed burns to comply with all applicable air quality laws, rules, and regulations, including Wyoming DEQ Air Quality District smoke-management rules and regulations.		
1002	X	X	PR:1	Define a criteria pollutant and air quality related values monitoring strategy and cooperatively establish a monitoring network by creating a method for siting air quality monitors in order to provide additional data for describing background concentrations.		
1003	X	X	PR:1 PR:2	Provide for compliance with applicable air quality standards in the Planning Area and work cooperatively to encourage industry and other permittees to adopt measures to reduce emissions.		
1004	X	X	PR:1.1	Enhance the existing cooperative process that shares air quality information with agencies, stakeholders, and the public.		
1005	X	X	PR:1.1	The State of Wyoming has primary responsibility (primacy) for administering and enforcing air quality standards and regulations within the state. BLM actions will conform with Wyoming DEQ Air Quality Standards and Regulations through application of BMPs and other measures consistent with resource goals and objectives.		
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
1006	X	X	PR:1 PR:2	Perform analyses of activities with expected effects to air resources. Modeling may be performed on a case-by-case basis.	Require quantitative air quality modeling of industrial activities (e.g., oil and gas field development or mining activities) in order to determine the potential effects from proposed emission sources and the effects of potential mitigation strategies for projects expected to approach or exceed emission standards at the	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p> <p>Characterize the condition of Class I areas within and adjacent to the Planning Area (Table 3-4), with stakeholders. Appendix J describes the details of this characterization.</p> <p>The proponent of a project will demonstrate regard for air resources and will demonstrate consideration of measures to reduce emissions to meet air</p>

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

1000 PHYSICAL RESOURCES (PR) – Air Quality						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				project/RMP level.	quality goals and objectives and Management Action 1003. The BLM will require additional air emission control measures and strategies within its regulatory authority and in consultation with stakeholders if proposed or committed measures are insufficient to achieve air quality goals and objectives.	quality goals and objectives and Management Action 1003. The BLM will require additional air emission control measures and strategies within its regulatory authority and in consultation with stakeholders if proposed or committed measures are insufficient to achieve air quality goals and objectives.

Detailed Alternatives**Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)**

1000 PHYSICAL RESOURCES (PR) – Air Quality						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
						mitigation measures beyond BLM's authority, to reduce emissions from current levels in the Planning Area.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

1000 PHYSICAL RESOURCES (PR) – Soil						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
GOAL PR:3	Maintain or improve soil health (e.g., chemical, physical, and biotic properties) while focusing on making significant progress toward meeting the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands (Appendix N).					
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES						
1007	X	X	PR:3.1	Use BMPs to reduce runoff, soil erosion, and sediment yield, and to retain water on the landscape.		
1008	X	X	PR:3.1	Develop appropriate mitigation for surface-disturbing and disruptive activities associated with wildlife and fish management through use of the mitigation guidelines described in Appendix H.		
1009	X	X	PR:3.1	Maintain existing watershed improvement projects.		
1010	X	X	PR:3.1	Allow surface-disturbing activities on fragile soils, biological crusts, soils with low reclamation potential, and soils with highly erosive characteristics on a case-by-case basis.		
1011	X	X	PR:3.1	Construct water flow, sediment control, and watershed stabilization projects in partnership with local, state, and federal programs.		
1012	X	X	PR:3.1	Prioritize and reseed portions of watersheds as opportunities arise.		
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
1013	X	X	PR:3.1	Stabilize existing watershed improvement projects to prevent the release of stored sediment where they have failed to promote/enhance/improve watershed stability.	Stabilize watershed projects to prevent the release of stored sediment if projects are no longer meeting resource objectives.	Same as Alternative B, except on a case-by-case basis.
1014	X	X	PR:3.1	No similar management action; however, under current management all surface-disturbing activities are analyzed for suitability and impacts.	Prior to approval of surface disturbance, analyze surface-disturbing activities by mapping soils to a series level, collecting soil samples for physical and chemical analysis, and evaluating current erosion conditions.	Same as Alternative B, except conduct mapping, collecting, and evaluating on a case-by-case basis.
						Same as Alternative D.
						Same as Alternative A.
						Same as Alternative B.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

1000 PHYSICAL RESOURCES (PR) – Soil						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
1015	X	X	PR:3.1	Assess erosion and soil stability during land health evaluations.	Inventory BLM-administered land to determine the rate of erosion and degree of soil stability.	Same as Alternative A.
1016	X	X	PR:3.1	Allow seeding of areas disturbed by surface-disturbing activities (as part of interim and final reclamation) or areas not meeting resource objectives using approved BLM seed mixtures of native species.	Same as Alternative A.	Allow seeding of areas not meeting resource objectives using approved nonnative and native species.
1017	X	X	PR:3.1	Routinely seed disturbed areas with native plant species.	In disturbed areas, reestablish healthy native plant communities based on preexisting composition or other species, as identified in an approved management plan.	In disturbed areas, reestablish plant communities to increase commodity production to meet other resource objectives.
1018	X	X	PR:3.1	No similar action.	Require a temporary protective surface treatment for the reclamation of all mechanically disturbed areas such as mulch, matting, netting, or tackifiers (excluding fires and including BLM-permitted or trespass activities).	Same as Alternative A.
						When appropriate for the site and situation, require temporary protective surface treatments such as weed-free mulch, matting, netting, or tackifiers to facilitate the reclamation of areas affected by authorized or unauthorized surface-disturbing activities. If needed, allow, the use of sterile, weed-free temporary protective surface treatments to facilitate stabilization following wildfires.
						Same as Alternative B.
						Same as Alternative D.
						Same as Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC).
						Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHIMAs ACEC)

Same as Alternative D.

Same as Alternative B.

Same as Alternative A.

Same as Alternative B.

Same as Alternative D.

Same as Alternative B.

Same as Alternative D.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

1000 PHYSICAL RESOURCES (PR) – Soil						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
1019	X	X	PR:3.1	Reestablish vegetation cover over disturbed soils within 5 years of initial seeding. Require reclamation in compliance with BLM policy, including Wyoming BLM Reclamation Policy and similar guidance updated over time.	Require 50 percent pre-disturbance of desired vegetative cover within three growing seasons. Require 80 percent pre-disturbance vegetative cover within 5 years of initial seeding. Interim and final reclamation will begin at the earliest feasible time.	Require 30 percent desired vegetative cover within three growing seasons. Require reclamation in compliance with BLM policy, including Wyoming BLM Reclamation Policy and similar guidance updated over time.
1020	X	X	PR:3.1	Reclamation plans are not required.	Reclamation plans will be developed and approved prior to any authorized surface-disturbing activities.	Reclamation plans are required on a case-by-case basis.
1021	X	X	PR:3.1	Consider stabilization of heavily eroded or washed out roads on a case-by-case basis.	Close and reclaim heavily eroded or washed out roads and trails if alternative roads and trails are available. Stabilize or relocate heavily eroded or washed out roads and trails if alternative roads and trails are unavailable.	Stabilize heavily eroded or washed out roads and trails. In consultation with stakeholders and subject to site-specific NEPA actions, close and reclaim unnecessary and/or heavily eroded roads and trails if other stable roads and trails are available on a priority basis. Stabilize or relocate heavily eroded or washed out roads and trails if other

Detailed Alternatives**Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)**

1000 PHYSICAL RESOURCES (PR) – Soil						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
1022	X	X	PR:3.1	Consider topsoil salvage and segregation on a case-by-case basis.	Require topsoil salvage and segregation for all surface-disturbing activities.	Same as Alternative A.
1023	X	X	PR:3 PR:3.1	No similar action.	Require photo point monitoring of all channel crossings and all surface disturbance greater than 0.5 acres.	Same as Alternative A.
						Salvage and segregate topsoil for all applicable surface-disturbing activities. Use salvaged topsoil in the reclamation of the associated surface disturbance.
						Same as Alternative B.
						Same as Alternative D.
						Same as Alternative E.
						Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
						Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)
						Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHIMAs ACEC)

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

1000 PHYSICAL RESOURCES (PR) – Water						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				GOAL PR:4	Maintain the quality of surface water and groundwater resources, maintain compliance with applicable federal and state water quality standards, and improve water quality where practical within the scope of the BLM's authority.	
				Objectives:		
				PR:4.1	Manage water resources to meet or achieve the <i>Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands</i> .	
				PR:4.2	Attain, maintain, or enhance the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of surface water (Map 3).	
				PR:4.3	Manage watersheds to prevent accelerated channel erosion and undesirable adjustments in channel geometry (e.g., width-depth ratio, sinuosity, bank stability, gradient) of stream channels within the authority of the BLM.	
				PR:4.4	Manage watersheds to restore stream channels that have been degraded within the authority of the BLM.	
				PR:4.5	Manage watersheds to achieve and maintain erosional stability and to support the hydrologic cycle and aquifer recharge.	
				PR:4.6	Manage pollutants on federal lands to minimize threats to drinking water sources.	
				PR:4.7	Manage produced water to meet other resource goals and objectives.	
				GOAL PR:5	Within the scope of BLM's authority, provide for the availability of water to support uses on public lands.	
				Objective:		
				PR:5.1	Rehabilitate, maintain, acquire, develop, or reclaim water supply sources to meet other resource goals and objectives within the scope of BLM's authority.	
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES						
1024	X	X	PR:4	PR:4	Water quality standards, enforcement, and remediation are the primacy of and administered by the State of Wyoming.	
					BLM actions will conform with Wyoming DEQ/WQD regulations and requirements through application of BMPs and other measures consistent with resource goals and objectives. Reporting of leaks and spills to the Wyoming DEQ and/or Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission will be required, as appropriate.	
1025	X	X	PR:5.1	PR:4.2	File for water rights to water projects on BLM-administered land as determined appropriate by the BLM.	
1026	X	X	PR:4.2	PR:4.6	Avoid aerial application of fire suppressant chemicals within 300 feet of perennial waters. Consider ground-based application on a case-by-case basis.	
1027	X	X	PR:4.5	PR:4.6	Protect watershed resources through the application of watershed conservation practices and BMPs.	
1028	X	X	PR:4.5	PR:4.6	In cooperation with stakeholders and within BLM's authority, protect groundwater during BLM activities and permitted actions through appropriate measures. These measures may be determined through methods such as predictive modeling, the results of monitoring, or project-specific analysis.	
1029	X	X	PR:4.2	PR:4.5-4.7	Apply BMPs for oil and gas and water well drilling operations, mining, and other activities, which could affect groundwater resources. For all oil and gas wells, a groundwater monitoring program will be established in accordance with state requirements.	
1030	X	X	PR:4.2	PR:4.5-4.7	Conduct water quality monitoring following the application of pesticides when treatments are conducted adjacent to streams within municipal watersheds, fish hatchery supply watersheds, or adjacent to major fish-bearing streams on a case-by-case basis.	
1031	X	X	PR:4.2	PR:4.3	Control water runoff from disturbed or developed sites and control soil erosion to appropriate rates for natural conditions through the Wyoming Storm Water Discharge Program using appropriate BMPs and technologies.	
				PR:4.5		

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

1000 PHYSICAL RESOURCES (PR) – Water						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
1032	X	X	PR:4.3-4.5	Participate in the development and implementation of local watershed management plans and/or TMDLs with interested stakeholders and Wyoming DEQ. Apply BMPs as appropriate from the <i>E. coli Total Maximum Daily Loads for the Big Horn River Watershed</i> (Wyoming DEQ 2013a), for the development and implementation of authorized activities on BLM lands in the Big Horn watershed.		
1033	X	X	PR:4.5	Implement BMPs to protect water quantity and water quality within cave and karst areas exhibiting unique underground drainage characteristics.		
1034	X	X	PR:4.1 PR:4.2 PR:4.7 PR:5.1	Acquire abandoned mineral wells that produce water as determined appropriate by BLM to meet other resource objectives.		
1035	X	X	PR:4.5	Cooperate with stakeholders to plug unneeded abandoned water wells to prevent groundwater contamination and with the State Engineers Office regulations (Part III) for proper water well abandonment.		
1036	X	X	PR:4.6	Cooperate with EPA, the State of Wyoming, and local governments in the development and implementation of source water and wellhead protection plans to protect drinking water sources.		
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
1037	X	X	PR:4.1-4.4 PR:4.6	Implement watershed improvement practices in Wyoming's Bighorn Basin water quality plans to reduce sediment loadings in streams and river segments as well as lakes and reservoirs. Once developed, include in all activity plans and permitted activities. When approved, these practices will be included in various BLM activity plans and in BLM use authorizations, as appropriate.	Develop watershed improvement practices in cooperation with local governments to reduce sediment loading in stream and river systems as well as lakes and reservoirs. Once developed, include in all activity plans and permitted activities.	Apply BMPs to all activity plans and permitted activities.
1038	X	X	PR:4.2 PR:4.3	In cooperation with other stakeholders, encourage the maintenance of natural flow regimes in streams supporting fisheries in compliance with Wyoming water laws.	In cooperation with other stakeholders, maintain the natural flow regimes in priority streams supporting fisheries in compliance with Wyoming water laws.	In cooperation with other stakeholders, encourage water development projects to allow for adequate in-stream flow to support riparian and fisheries values in compliance with Wyoming water laws.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

1000 PHYSICAL RESOURCES (PR) – Water						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
1039	X	X	PR:4.1-4.3	Fence springs and reservoirs on BLM-administered land, as necessary, to meet resource objectives. Provide offsite water as necessary.	Consider fencing of springs, wetlands, reservoirs, and riparian areas, and provide offsite water when necessary to meet resources objectives.	Same as Alternative B, except only fence springs and their associated wetlands. Provide offsite water as necessary.
1040	X	X	PR:4.3 PR:4.4	No similar action.	Cooperate with adjacent landowners and managers to address Impaired waterbodies listed on the State of Wyoming's 303d list. Prioritize all streams not meeting state water quality standards where the evidence indicates that failure to meet such standards is the result of BLM management actions or permitted activities.	Same as Alternative B. Cooperate with adjacent landowners, managers, and the Wyoming DEQ to address waterbodies not meeting state water quality standards. Prioritize and implement BMPs to address causal factors related to the impairment of water quality of waters where the evidence indicates that failure to meet such standards is the result of BLM management actions or permitted activities.
1041	X	X	PR:4.1 PR:4.2 PR:4.6 PR:4.7	Authorize new activities resulting in the surface discharge of produced water if it meets State of Wyoming water quality standards. As the surface administrator of public lands, the BLM considers multiple-use objectives and provides recommendations to the Wyoming DEQ before that agency issues water discharge permits.	Do not authorize new activities resulting in the surface discharge of produced water on BLM-administered land.	Authorize new activities resulting in the surface discharge of produced water and require the proper disposal of this water. At the discretion of BLM and its stakeholders, such waters may be put to beneficial use, in accordance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations. When it occurs in waterways on BLM-administered land, require the discharge of produced water be done in such a

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

1000 PHYSICAL RESOURCES (PR) – Water										
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)				
					<p>manner as to cause minimal environmental harm, while still contributing to beneficial uses.</p> <p>Avoid or mitigate BLM-authorized activities and infrastructure such as unlined impoundment ponds/pits, reserve pits, and evaporation ponds that could result in the contamination of sensitive water resources, including Source Water Protection Areas identified in Wellhead or Source Water Protection Plans approved local governing bodies and “High” and “Moderately High” sensitivity aquifer systems identified through the use of the Wyoming Groundwater Vulnerability Assessment Handbook or similar document as updated over time, on a case-by-case basis. BMPs appropriate for consideration to mitigate potential water quality impacts are listed in Appendix L.</p>	<p>receiving channels or watershed health occur, require development and implementation of water management plans which include reclamation strategies and mitigation to address impacts.</p> <p>Avoid or mitigate BLM-authorized activities and infrastructure such as unlined impoundment ponds/pits, reserve pits, and evaporation ponds that could result in the contamination of sensitive water resources, including Source Water Protection Areas identified in Wellhead or Source Water Protection Plans approved local governing bodies and “High” and “Moderately High” sensitivity aquifer systems identified through the use of the Wyoming Groundwater Vulnerability Assessment Handbook or similar document as updated over time, on a case-by-case basis. BMPs appropriate for consideration to mitigate potential water quality impacts are listed in Appendix L.</p>	<p>similar document as updated over time, unless anticipated impacts are mitigated. BMPs appropriate for consideration to mitigate potential water quality impacts are listed in Appendix L.</p>	<p>similar document as updated over time, unless anticipated impacts are mitigated. BMPs appropriate for consideration to mitigate potential water quality impacts are listed in Appendix L.</p>	<p>similar document as updated over time, unless anticipated impacts are mitigated. BMPs appropriate for consideration to mitigate potential water quality impacts are listed in Appendix L.</p>	<p>similar document as updated over time, unless anticipated impacts are mitigated. BMPs appropriate for consideration to mitigate potential water quality impacts are listed in Appendix L.</p>

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

1000 PHYSICAL RESOURCES (PR) – Water						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
1042	X	X	PR:4.6	No similar action.	Prohibit activities that could affect water resources within a ¼ mile area around public water supply wells, and an area including ¼ mile on both sides of a river or stream, for 10 miles upstream of the public water supply intake, within the watershed. For lakes and reservoirs, this would include a ¼ mile area around the waterbody.	Allow activities around public water supply wells on a case-by-case basis.

Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)	Alternative D (Proposed RMP)	Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)	Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs ACEC)
1042	X	X	PR:4.6	No similar action.	Prohibit activities that could affect water resources within a ¼ mile area around public water supply wells, and an area including ¼ mile on both sides of a river or stream, for 10 miles upstream of the public water supply intake, within the watershed. For lakes and reservoirs, this would include a ¼ mile area around the waterbody.	Allow activities around public water supply wells on a case-by-case basis.	Avoid activities that could negatively affect water resources within a ¼ mile area around public water supply wells, and an area including ¼ mile on both sides of a river or stream, for 10 miles upstream of the public water supply intake, within the watershed. For lakes and reservoirs, this would include a ¼ mile area around the waterbody. For unavoidable activities in these areas, site specific mitigation will be included to minimize risk of adverse impacts.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative D.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

1000 PHYSICAL RESOURCES (PR) – Cave and Karst Resources						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
GOAL PR:6 Conserve significant cave and karst resources and enhance educational and scientific research opportunities relative to cave and karst resources in the Planning Area.						
Objectives:						
1043	X	X	PR:6.1	Cave and karst areas (7,381 acres) are closed to mineral materials disposal, withdrawn from locatable entry, and closed to mineral leasing. These same restrictions apply to important caves or cave passages and karst resources as they are identified.	PR:6.1 Manage significant cave resources as mandated by the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988.	PR:6.2 Foster public awareness, public use, and provide opportunities for cave and karst research.
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES						
1044	X	X	PR:6.1	Manage cave and karst areas as ROW avoidance areas.		
1045	X	X	PR:6.1	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in areas over important caves or cave passages.		
1046	X	X	PR:6.2	Manage recreational use of caves under a cave management plan. Goals of the plan will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting the significance and importance of cave resources through interpretive and educative programs and techniques. • Protecting and maintaining cave resources, including wildlife species and habitat in and around caves by interpreting, restricting, and/or prohibiting nonconforming uses. • Enhancing user experiences and opportunities by managing use at levels compatible with resource carrying capacity and protection. 		
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
1047	X	X	PR:6.2	Do not require a minimum group size in caves.	For safety reasons, group sizes must be at least three people in all caves where use is allowed.	Same as Alternative A. Same as Alternative B.
1048	X	X	PR:6.1	Accomplish cave resource protection and provide for user safety with controls such as timing of use to avoid crowding and closing caves to use during periods of high water runoff.	Same as Alternative A, except close cave and karst areas during all critical periods for bats and when user safety is at risk due to high water, radon, H ₂ S, and fire.	Same as Alternative B. Same as Alternative B. Same as Alternative B.
1049	X	X	PR:6.2	Allow commercial recreational use of Spirit Mountain cave on a case-by-case basis.	Same as Alternative A, except encourage commercial caving tours for Spirit Mountain cave.	Same as Alternative A. Same as Alternative D. Same as Alternative D.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

1000 PHYSICAL RESOURCES (PR) – Cave and Karst Resources						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
1050	X	X	PR:6.2	Manage cave and karst resources as the Worland Caves SRMA to provide for recreational opportunities.	Manage cave and karst resources under a specific cave and karst ERMA.	Do not manage cave and karst resources under a specific cave and karst ERMA. Manage cave and karst areas consistent with resource objectives.
1051	X	X	PR:6.2	Allow scientific research of cave and karst areas on a case-by-case basis.	Actively pursue scientific research of cave and karst areas.	Same as Alternative A.
1052	X	X	PR:6.2	No similar action.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.

Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative D (Proposed RMP)	Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)	Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs ACEC)
				Same as Alternative C.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative C.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

2000 MINERAL RESOURCES (MR)						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
GOAL MR:1				Provide opportunities for mineral extraction and energy exploration and development to meet national and local needs, while avoiding or mitigating impacts on other resources.		
				Objectives:		
				MR:1.1 Provide opportunities to explore for, sell and/or permit, and develop leaseable, salable, and locatable mineral resources.		
				MR:1.2 Encourage sound, balanced exploration and development of mineral resources in the Planning Area.		
				MR:1.3 Provide opportunities for exploring, leasing, and developing conventional and unconventional oil and gas, CBNG, coal, sodium, phosphate, and other leaseable minerals including, but not limited to, oil shale and geothermal resources.		
GOAL MR:2				Manage leaseable fluid mineral resources (oil, gas, CBNG, geothermal) in the Planning Area to meet the Nation's energy needs, without compromising long-term health and diversity of public lands and resources.		
				Objectives:		
				MR:2.1 Provide opportunities to explore and develop federal oil and gas resources and other leaseable minerals.		
				MR:2.2 Provide opportunities for collection of subsurface geological (geophysical) data to aid in the exploration of oil and gas resources in areas open to leasing.		
				MR:2.3 Priority will be given to leasing and development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, outside of PHMA and GHMA. When analyzing leasing and authorizing development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, in PHMA and GHMA, and subject to applicable stipulations for the conservation of greater sage-grouse, priority will be given to development in non-habitat areas first and then in the least suitable habitat for greater sage-grouse. The implementation of these priorities will be subject to valid existing rights and any applicable law or regulation, including, but not limited to, 30 U.S.C. 226(p) and 43 C.F.R. 3162.3-1(h).		
				MR:2.4 Where a proposed fluid mineral development project on an existing lease could adversely affect greater sage-grouse populations or habitat, the BLM will work with the lessees, operators, or other project proponents to avoid, reduce, and mitigate adverse impacts to the extent compatible with lessees' rights to drill and produce fluid mineral resources. The BLM will work with the lessee, operator, or project proponent in developing an APD for the lease to avoid and minimize impacts to sage-grouse or its habitat and will ensure that the best information about the greater sage-grouse and its habitat informs and helps to guide development of such federal leases.		
GOAL MR:3				GOAL MR:3 Manage solid leaseable mineral resources (coal, oil shale, tar sands, phosphate, sodium, etc.) to help meet local and regional needs, while avoiding or mitigating effects on other resources.		
				Objective:		
				MR:3.1 Provide opportunities for exploration, leasing, and development of solid leaseable minerals consistent with goals and objectives of other natural and cultural resources and values.		
GOAL MR:4				GOAL MR:4 Manage salable mineral materials to meet local and regional needs, while avoiding or mitigating effects on other resources.		
				Objectives:		
				MR:4.1 Anticipate need and identify areas suitable for ongoing and future mineral materials disposals to meet needs.		
				MR:4.2 Provide opportunities for exploration and development of salable minerals in suitable locations while avoiding or mitigating effects to other resources.		
GOAL MR:5				GOAL MR:5 Manage locatable minerals activities on lands open to mineral entry, while preventing unnecessary and undue degradation of public lands as defined in 43 CFR 3809.5, and while avoiding or mitigating effects of exploration and production on other resources.		
				Objective:		
				MR:5.1 Provide opportunities for exploration and development of locatable minerals while reducing and mitigating effects of mining on other natural resources.		

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

2000 MINERAL RESOURCES (MR)						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				GOAL MR:6	Provide protections for resource values in areas of conflict with mineral exploration and development.	
Objectives:						
				MR:6.1	Manage oil and gas operations in the Master Leasing Plan areas to prevent degradation of resources.	
				MR:6.2	Minimize, avoid, and mitigate impacts of environmental risks on fish and wildlife.	
				MR:6.3	Manage the direct indirect and cumulative impacts so as to maintain a minimal level of user conflict.	
				MR:6.4	Manage habitat to conserve, recover, and maintain fish and wildlife consistent with appropriate local, state, and federal management plans.	
				MR:6.5	Utilize a comprehensive approach to travel planning and management to sustain and enhance use.	
				MR:6.6	Apply guidelines and appropriate measures to all management actions (including reclamation) affecting soil health to decrease erosion and sedimentation, to achieve and maintain stability, and to support the hydrologic cycle by providing for water capture, storage, and release.	
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES						
2001	X	X	BR:8.3 BR:8.5	Design, construct, and operate evaporation, reserve, work over, and production pits with protective features to reduce mortality livestock and wildlife due to drowning or entrapment as addressed in BLM Wyoming's <i>Management of Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Pits</i> (BLM 2011d). Do not allow infrastructure (such as unlined impoundment ponds/pits, reserve pits, evaporation ponds, and other uses) that could impact water resources and cause contamination in order to protect sensitive water resources (within 500 feet of riparian areas and surface waters. Source Water Protection Areas identified in Wellhead or Source Water Protection Plans approved by the local governing body, and "High" and "Moderately High" sensitivity aquifer systems identified through the use of the Wyoming Groundwater Vulnerability Assessment Handbook or similar document as updated over time), unless anticipated impacts are mitigated (Appendix L).		
Locatable Minerals						
2002	X	X	MR:1.1 MR:5.1	Lands not formally withdrawn or segregated from mineral entry are available for mineral entry for bentonite (Map 4), gypsum (Map 5), and other locatable minerals.		
Leasable Minerals – Coal						
2003	X	X	MR:1.1 MR:1.3 MR:3.1	Allow coal exploration on lands through the coal exploration license process.		
2004	X	X	MR:1.1 MR:1.3 MR:3.1	Consider interest in exploration for, or leasing of, federal coal (Map 6), if any on a case-by-case basis. Allow coal exploration licenses subject to the regulations of 43 CFR 3410, and subject to guidance mitigating for surface-disturbing activities in the <i>Wyoming BLM Standard Oil and Gas-Lease Stipulations</i> (Appendix I). Before issuing a coal exploration license, require the authorized officer to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement, if necessary, of the potential effects of the proposed exploration on the natural and socio-economic environment of the affected area. If an application for a federal coal lease is received, conduct an appropriate land use and environmental analysis, including the coal screening process, to determine whether the area(s) proposed for leasing is (are) acceptable for coal development and leasing (as per 43 CFR 3425). If public lands are determined to be acceptable for further consideration for coal leasing, amend the land use plan as necessary. Only accept federal coal lease applications on those federal coal lands with development potential identified as suitable for further leasing consideration, after application of the coal screens and unsuitability criteria. At the time an application for a new coal lease or lease modification is submitted to the BLM, the BLM will determine whether the lease application area is "unsuitable" for all or certain coal mining methods pursuant to 43 CFR 3461.5. PHMA is essential habitat for maintaining greater sage-grouse for purposes of the suitability criteria set forth at 43 CFR 3461.5(o)(1).		

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

2000 MINERAL RESOURCES (MR)						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
Leasable Minerals – Geothermal						
2005	X	X	MR:1.1 MR:1.3 MR:2	Unless otherwise noted, BLM-administered land in the Planning Area that is open to oil and gas leasing is open to geothermal leasing, subject to appropriate mitigation developed through use of the mitigation guidelines described in Appendix H. Unless otherwise noted, those lands identified as closed to oil and gas leasing are closed to geothermal leasing.		
2006	X	X	MR:2	Unless otherwise noted, the exploration and development of geothermal resources are subject to restrictions on surface-disturbing activities as they are applied to oil and gas exploration and development activities.		
Leasable Minerals – Oil and Gas						
2007	X	X	MR:1 MR:2	Protect important resources, including in areas closed to leasing on existing leases (Map 7) to the extent this restriction does not violate the leaseholder/operator lease rights, by applying a NSO restriction and prohibiting surface-disturbing activities.		
				In areas identified as available for leasing, additional planning, analysis, and decision making may be necessary prior to lease issuance under the following criteria: 1) when oil and gas development is resulting in unacceptable multiple-use or natural/cultural resources conflicts, 2) new information evidences increased oil and gas development densities or surface disturbance, or 3) at the discretion of the Field Manager, District Manager, or State Director. Areas closed for oil and gas leasing may be leased with a NSO stipulation to deal with drainage of these resources from federal mineral estate.		
2008	X	X	MR:2.1 MR:2.3 MR:2.4	Determine the routing of access roads and location of well pads after considering the views of the surface owner on split-estate lands (private surface-federal minerals/oil and gas), where possible.		
				Where the federal government owns the mineral estate, and the surface is in non-federal ownership, apply the same stipulations, COAs, and/or conservation measures and RDFs applied if the mineral estate is developed on BLM-administered lands in that management area, to the maximum extent permissible under existing authorities, and in coordination with the landowner.		
				Where the federal government owns the surface and the mineral estate is in non-federal ownership, apply appropriate surface use COAs, stipulations, and mineral RDGs through ROW grants or other surface management instruments, to the maximum extent permissible under existing authorities, in coordination with the mineral estate owner/lessee.		
Leasable Minerals – Oil and Gas/CBNG Exploration and Development						
2009	X	X	MR:1.1 MR:1.3 MR:2.1 MR:2.3	Process oil and gas lease applications on a case-by-case basis.		
2010	X	X	MR:1.1 MR:1.3 MR:2.1 MR:2.3 MR:2.4	Unless otherwise noted, areas that are open to oil and gas leasing are open to geophysical exploration subject to appropriate mitigation developed through use of the mitigation guidelines described in Appendix I. Areas closed to oil and gas leasing are closed to geophysical exploration. However, geophysical exploration may be permitted on a case-by-case basis so long as the resource goals and objectives under which the area was closed are not compromised.		
2011	X	X	MR:1.1 MR:1.3 MR:2 MR:2.3	In cases where federal oil and gas leases are or have been issued without stipulated restrictions or requirements that are later found to be necessary, or with stipulated restrictions or requirements later found to be insufficient, consider their inclusion before approving subsequent exploration and development activities. Include these restrictions or requirements only as reasonable measures or as conditions of approval in authorizing APDs or Master Development Plans.		
				Conversely, in cases where leases are or have been issued with stipulated restrictions or requirements that are later found to be excessive or unnecessary, the stipulated		

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

2000 MINERAL RESOURCES (MR)						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
			MR:2.4	restrictions or requirements may be appropriately modified, excepted or waived in authorizing actions. Both the application of reasonable measures or COAs and the modification, exception, or waiver of stipulated restrictions or requirements must first be based upon site-specific analysis including the necessary supporting NEPA.		Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
2012	X	X	MR:2.1	On split-estate lands, at the time of APD review, negotiations among the surface owner, operators, and the BLM may be undertaken to incorporate specific needs of the surface owner.		Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)
2013	X	X	MR:1.2	Utilize BMPs in the exploration, development, production, and abandonment of oil and gas resources.		Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs ACEC)
Leasable Minerals – Other Solid Leasable Minerals						
2014	X	X	MR:1.1 MR:1.3 MR:3.1	Surface disturbance restrictions for geophysical exploration activities for other solid leasable minerals apply to both leased and un-leased lands.		
2015	X	X	MR:1.1 MR:1.3 MR:3.1	Lease solid minerals such as phosphates or sodium, consistent with other resources, on a case-by-case basis.		
Saleable Minerals						
2016	X	X	MR:4.1 MR:4.2	Existing BLM-approved mineral material sites (Map 8) are open to mineral materials disposal. New mineral materials disposal sites in areas open to mineral materials disposal are subject to site-specific analysis prior to approval. Ensure that each community pit has an updated site-specific reclamation fee based on a current mining and reclamation plan. Ensure that reclamation occurs in mined-out areas of community pits.		
2017	X	X	MR:1.1 MR:1.2 MR:4.1 MR:4.2	Dispose of mineral materials on a case-by-case basis, subject to site-specific analysis and appropriate mitigation prior to approval, in areas open to mineral materials disposal.		
2018	X	X	MR:1.1 MR:1.2 MR:4.1 MR:4.2	Prohibit disposal of topsoil.		
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
Locatable Minerals						
2019	X	X	MR:5.1	4,130,352 acres are available for locatable mineral entry in the Planning Area. Maintain a withdrawal from appropriation under the mining laws for locatable minerals on 314,223 acres	4,155,119 acres are available for locatable mineral entry in the Planning Area. Pursue a withdrawal from appropriation under the mining laws for locatable minerals on 314,223 acres	4,120,325 acres are available for locatable mineral entry in the Planning Area. Pursue a withdrawal from appropriation under the mining laws for locatable minerals for 48,095 acres
					2,443,901 acres are available for locatable mineral entry in the Planning Area. Pursue a withdrawal from appropriation under the mining laws for locatable minerals for 83,321 acres	Same as Alternative D.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

2000 MINERAL RESOURCES (MR)						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				72,861 acres in the Planning Area (Map 9).	in the Planning Area (Map 10).	in the Planning Area (Map 11).
2020	X	MR:5.1	No similar action.	Pursue a withdrawal from appropriation under the mining laws for federal mineral estate within the Cody Industrial Park area until such time as the mineral estate is disposed of.	Federal mineral estate within the Cody Industrial Park area is available for locatable mineral entry.	Do not open federal mineral estate within the Cody Industrial Park area to locatable mineral entry.
Leasable Minerals – Coal						
2021	X	X	MR:1.1 MR:1.3 MR:3.1	Terminate all coal and phosphate withdrawals and classifications and return the lands involved to operation of the mining laws.	Continue all coal and phosphate withdrawals and classifications, and do not return the lands involved to operation of the mining laws.	Same as Alternative A.
						Continue all coal and phosphate withdrawals and classifications unless no longer needed and do not return the lands involved to operation of the mining laws.
Leasable Minerals – Geothermal Resources						
2022	X	MR:5.1	Lands within 15 miles of Hot Springs State Park are open to geothermal leasing.	BLM-administered land or federal mineral estate within 15 miles of Hot Springs State Park in Thermopolis is closed to geothermal leasing.	Same as Alternative A.	BLM-administered land or federal mineral estate within 5 miles of Hot Springs State Park in Thermopolis is closed to geothermal leasing.
2023	X	X	MR:5.1	A total of 151,931 acres are closed to geothermal leasing (Map 14). A total of 3,986,094 acres are open to geothermal leasing.	A total of 2,453,193 acres are closed to geothermal leasing (Map 15). A total of 1,684,832 acres are open to geothermal leasing.	A total of 145,836 acres are closed to geothermal leasing (Map 16). A total of 3,932,194 acres are open to geothermal leasing.
Leasable Minerals – Oil and Gas/CBNG Exploration and Development						
2024	X	X	MR:1.1 MR:1.3 MR:2.1 MR:2.3	Approximately 1,354,593 acres of federal mineral estate are open to oil and gas leasing subject to the terms and conditions of	Approximately 405,620 acres of federal mineral estate are open to oil and gas leasing subject to the terms and conditions of	Approximately 2,565,742 acres of federal mineral estate are open to oil and gas leasing subject to the terms and conditions of
						Approximately 911,814 acres of federal mineral estate are open to oil and gas leasing subject to the terms and conditions of
						Approximately 384,176 acres of federal mineral estate are open to oil and gas leasing subject to the terms and conditions of
						Approximately 912,328 acres of federal mineral estate are open to oil and gas leasing subject to the terms and conditions of

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

2000 MINERAL RESOURCES (MR)						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
		MR-2-4	the standard lease form only (Map 18).	the standard lease form only (Map 19).	the standard lease form only (Map 20).	the standard lease form only (Map 21). Require geothermal resource monitoring and protection within 5 miles of Hot Springs State Park and within the Thermopolis Anticline.
2025	X	X	MR-1.1 MR-1.3 MR-2.1 MR-2.3 MR-2.4	Approximately 1,633,204 acres of federal mineral estate are open to oil and gas leasing subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form, as well as moderate constraints (Map 18).	Approximately 335,109 acres of federal mineral estate are open to oil and gas leasing subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form, as well as moderate constraints (Map 19).	Approximately 1,334,491 acres of federal mineral estate are open to oil and gas leasing subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form, as well as moderate constraints (Map 20).
2026	X	X	MR-1.1 MR-1.3 MR-2.1 MR-2.3 MR-2.4	Approximately 889,435 acres of federal mineral estate are open to oil and gas leasing subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form, as well as major constraints (Map 18).	Approximately 932,551 acres of federal mineral estate are open to oil and gas leasing subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form, as well as major constraints (Map 19).	Approximately 91,956 acres of federal mineral estate are open to oil and gas leasing subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form, as well as major constraints (Map 20).
2027	X	X	MR-1.1 MR-1.3 MR-2.1 MR-2.3 MR-2.4	Approximately 260,792 acres of federal mineral estate are closed to oil and gas leasing (Map 18).	Approximately 2,464,745 acres of federal mineral estate are closed to oil and gas leasing (Map 19).	Approximately 145,836 acres of federal mineral estate are closed to oil and gas leasing (Map 20).
2028	X	X	MR-1.1 MR-1.3 MR-2.1 MR-2.3 MR-2.4	No similar action.	Prohibit suspension of existing non-producing mineral leases in areas closed to mineral leasing. After such leases expire, do not offer those lands for lease again.	Allow suspension of existing mineral leases (producing or non-producing) in areas closed to mineral leasing. After existing non-producing mineral leases expire in areas closed to mineral leasing, do not offer those lands lease.
					Same as Alternative B, except on a case-by-case basis.	Same as Alternative D.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

2000 MINERAL RESOURCES (MR)						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
Leasable Minerals – Oil and Gas Management Areas, Master Leasing Plan Areas, and Other Areas						
2029	X	X	MR:1.1 MR:1.3 MR:2.1	No similar action.	Do not delineate Oil and Gas Management Areas. However, continue to consider surface resources such as wildlife habitat and livestock forage within existing intensively-developed fields and adjacent areas during review and approval of fluid minerals actions.	Delineate Oil and Gas Management Areas (Map 24) (566.345 acres of federal mineral estate) around intensively-developed existing fields, using a buffer zone of up to 2 miles from the outer boundary of the existing field (Map 26); adding enhanced oil recovery areas identified by the Governor's Office Enhanced Oil Recovery Institute and excluding greater sage-grouse PHMAS. Manage these areas primarily for oil and gas exploration and development.
						Same as Alternative D, except apply NSO conditions of approval on existing leases to the extent consistent with valid existing rights in greater sage-grouse PHMAS (Map 28).
						Same as Alternative B, except apply NSO conditions of approval on existing leases to the extent consistent with valid existing rights in greater sage-grouse Key Habitat Areas (Map 27).
						Same as Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)
						Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAS ACEC)

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

2000 MINERAL RESOURCES (MR)						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
						<p>mitigation.</p> <p>As oil and gas fields expand or exploration reaches beyond the Oil and Gas Management Areas depicted on Map 25, Oil and Gas Management Areas may be enlarged as appropriate. To enlarge Oil and Gas Management Areas, the expansion area would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) have to be adjacent to the field and under valid oil and gas lease(s) with stipulations allowing surface occupancy and development; ii) have to have a surface density of, on average, at least four well pads per 640-acres; iii) determination that additional well density is required to efficiently and adequately produce the oil or gas resource; iv) need surface resources to be satisfactorily mitigated; and v) need commitment to

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

2000 MINERAL RESOURCES (MR)						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
2030	X	MR:1.1 MR:1.3 MR:3.1	No similar action.	Federal mineral estate within the Cody Industrial Park area is closed to mineral leasing.	Federal mineral estate within the Cody Industrial Park area is open to mineral leasing.	accelerate reclamation as required by the authorized officer.
Leasable Minerals – Other Solid Leasables (Oil Shale, Tar Sands, Phosphate, etc.)						
2031	X	X	MR:1.1 MR:1.3 MR:3.1	Sherard Dome and Trapper Canyon are open to mineral leasing.	Sherard Dome and Trapper Canyon tar sands are closed to solid mineral leasing.	Same as Alternative A.
Salable Minerals						
2032	X	X	MR:1.1 MR:4.1 MR:4.2	Dispose of mineral materials (e.g., sand and gravel [Map 29], limestone, and decorative/construction stone) throughout the Planning Area, except where resource values require closure.	1,612,993 acres are open to mineral materials disposal. 2,590,220 acres are closed to mineral materials disposal (Map 31).	3,859,251 acres are open to mineral materials disposal. 343,962 acres are closed to mineral materials disposal (Map 32).
				3,974,564 acres are open to mineral materials disposal. 228,649 acres are closed to mineral materials disposal (Map 30).	3,828,320 acres are open to mineral materials disposal. 374,894 acres are closed to mineral materials disposal (Map 33).	1,059,062 acres are open to mineral materials disposal. 3,144,151 acres are closed to mineral materials disposal (Map 34).

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

2000 MINERAL RESOURCES (MR)						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
2033	X		MR:1.1 MR:4.1 MR:4.2	No similar action.	Federal mineral estate within the Cody Industrial Park area is closed to mineral materials disposal.	Federal mineral estate within the Cody Industrial Park area is open to mineral materials disposal.
Geophysical Exploration and Development						
2034	X	X	MR:1.1 MR:1.3 MR:2.2	Allow geophysical exploration if it can be conducted within the constraints necessary to protect other resources.	Same as Alternative A, but geophysical exploration is subject to motorized vehicle use limitations and restrictions on surface-disturbing activities.	Same as Alternative A.
Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) Sequestration						
2035	X	X	MR:1.2	No similar action.	Prohibit carbon dioxide sequestration research and projects.	Allow carbon dioxide sequestration research and projects.
Master Leasing Plans (MLPs) -- Absaroka Front						
2036	X	X	MR:6	No similar action.	Do not apply any MLPs.	Same as Alternative B.
					Consistent with the management of other resources and resources uses under this alternative, the Absaroka Front Management Area is closed to mineral leasing.	Consistent with the management of other resources and resources uses under this alternative, the Absaroka Front Management Area is open to mineral leasing.
2037	X		MR:6.1 MR:6.2 MR:6.4	No similar action.	Consistent with the management of other resources and resources uses under this alternative, the Absaroka Front Management Area is closed to mineral leasing.	Zone 1 – Areas within elk crucial winter range will be offered for lease only after all parcels outside elk crucial winter range have been offered for lease, sold, and explored. Exploration will be

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

2000 MINERAL RESOURCES (MR)						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
2038	X		MR6.1 MR6.2 MR6.4	Consistent with the management of other resources and resources uses under this alternative, apply a TLS to avoid surface-disturbing and disruptive activities within big game crucial winter range from November 15 through April 30. Apply CSU stipulation for big game migration corridors, narrow ridges, overlapping big game crucial winter range.	Consistent with the management of other resources and resources uses under this alternative, the Absaroka Front Management Area is closed to mineral leasing.	considered complete when a downhole spacing determination has been made by the WOGCC or BLM Wyoming RMG, as appropriate.
					Zone 1 – Areas outside elk crucial winter range are subject to CSU, Oil and gas-related surface disturbances are restricted to no more than 1 location per lease, to include 1 well pad and ancillary facilities. Total surface disturbance per lease at any given time will not exceed 32 acres. A minimum lease size of 640 acres of federal mineral estate would be applied outside elk crucial winter range. The lease can consist of noncontiguous parcels. Smaller parcels may be leased only when 640 acres of federal mineral estate are not available and leasing is necessary to remain in compliance with laws, regulations and policy; for example, to protect the federal mineral estate from drainage or to commit the federal mineral estate to unit or communitization agreements.	Same as Alternative D. Same as Alternative B. Same as Alternative E. Same as Alternative F.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

2000 MINERAL RESOURCES (MR)						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acceptable final reclamation. • Co-locate new disturbance where technically feasible. • Utilize unitization to minimize surface disturbance in elk crucial winter range.
2039	X	MR:6.1 MR:6.2 MR:6.4	Consistent with the management of other resources and resources uses under this alternative, apply a TIS to avoid surface-disturbing and disruptive activities within big game crucial winter range from November 15 through April 30.	Consistent with the management of other resources and resources uses under this alternative, the Absaroka Front Management Area is closed to mineral leasing.	Consistent with the management of other resources and resources uses under this alternative, the Absaroka Front Management Area is open to mineral leasing.	<p>Zone 1 – Areas inside elk crucial winter range are subject to CSU, Oil and gas-related surface disturbances are restricted to no more than 1 location per lease, to include 1 well pad and ancillary facilities. Total surface disturbance per lease at any given time will not exceed 64 acres. A minimum lease size of 1,280 acres of federal mineral estate would be applied inside elk crucial winter range. The lease can consist of noncontiguous parcels. Smaller parcels may be leased only when 1,280 acres of federal mineral estate is not available and leasing is necessary to remain in compliance with laws, regulations and policy; for example, to protect the federal mineral estate from drainage or to commit the federal mineral estate to unit or communization.</p> <p>Same as Alternative D.</p> <p>Same as Alternative B.</p> <p>Same as Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC) (PHMAS ACEC)</p>

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

2000 MINERAL RESOURCES (MR)						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow additional disturbance pending acceptable final reclamation. • Co-locate new disturbance where technically feasible. • Utilize unitization to minimize surface disturbance in elk crucial winter range.
2040	X	MR:6.1 MR:6.2 MR:6.4		<p>The Absaroka Front Management Area is closed to mineral leasing.</p> <p>Apply a TLS to avoid surface-disturbing and disruptive activities within big game crucial winter range from November 15 through April 30.</p> <p>Apply CSU stipulation for big game migration corridors, narrow ridges, overlapping big game crucial winter range.</p>	<p>Manage the Absaroka Front Management Area consistent with other resource objectives.</p>	<p>Zone 2 – Areas adjoining the Shoshone National Forest are open to oil and gas leasing but will be managed for the protection of wildlife transitional and/or big game habitats, and to enable consistent management across multiple surface owners.</p> <p>The acreage in Zone 2 will be offered only as 2 parcels (Map 35) requiring a Master Development Plan to minimize impacts to big game crucial winter range or transitional habitat.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-locate new disturbance where technically feasible. • Utilize unitization to minimize surface disturbance in big game winter range. <p>The plan must demonstrate to the BLM</p>

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

2000 MINERAL RESOURCES (MR)						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
						<p>authorized officer's satisfaction how the operator will meet the following performance standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with the Shoshone National Forest and State of Wyoming to ensure consistent management objectives are achieved. • Design oil and gas development to avoid or reduce unnecessary disturbances, wildlife conflicts, and habitat impacts. • Plan the pattern and rate of development to avoid the most important habitats and generally reduce the extent and severity of impacts. • Cluster drill pads, roads and facilities in specific, "low-impact" areas, if geologically feasible. • Consider "liquid gathering systems" (LGS) to eliminate surface storage tanks and reduce truck trips for removal of liquids. • To the extent practicable, place infrastructure within

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

2000 MINERAL RESOURCES (MR)						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimize infrastructure development and operational activity during life of field by using consolidation (e.g., “unitized”) development techniques.
2041	X	MR:6.1 MR:6.2 MR:6.4	Apply a TLS to avoid surface-disturbing and disruptive activities within big game crucial winter range from November 15 through April 30. Apply CSU stipulation for big game migration corridors, narrow ridges, overlapping big game crucial winter range.	The Absaroka Front Management Area is closed to mineral leasing.	Manage the Absaroka Front Management Area consistent with other resource objectives.	<p>Zone 3 – Areas inside elk crucial winter range are subject to CSU. Oil and gas-related surface disturbances are restricted to no more than 1 location per lease, to include 1 well pad and ancillary facilities. Total surface disturbance per lease will not exceed 64 acres. A minimum lease size of 1,280 noncontiguous acres of federal mineral estate is required inside elk crucial winter range. Smaller parcels may be leased only when 1,280 acres of federal mineral estate are not available and leasing is necessary to remain in compliance with laws, regulations and policy; for example, to protect the federal mineral estate from drainage or to commit the federal mineral estate to unit or communization</p> <p>Same as Alternative D.</p> <p>Same as Alternative B.</p>

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

2000 MINERAL RESOURCES (MR)						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
						agreements.
2042	X	MR:6.1 MR:6.2 MR:6.4	Determine the appropriate DPC to manage vegetation on a case-by-case basis to in areas identified as habitat for special status species, or crucial winter range for big game.	The Absaroka Front Management Area is closed to mineral leasing.	Manage vegetation in areas identified as habitat for special status species, or crucial winter range for big game to the DPC that is a combination community that benefits all grazing/browsing animals.	Zone 3 – Apply a CSU to avoid locating new surface disturbance within forest type vegetation in areas identified as habitat for big game crucial winter range (Map 37).
Master Leasing Plans (MLPs) – Fifteenmile						
2044	X	MR:6	No similar action.	Do not apply an MLP.	Same as Alternative B.	Apply a MLP to 180,816 acres in the Fifteenmile MLP Analysis Area (Map 35).

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

2000 MINERAL RESOURCES (MR)						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
2045	X	MR:6.3 MR:6.6	Review mineral leases on a case-by-case basis and apply stipulations and mitigation consistent with other resource objectives.	Apply a NSO restriction in the fifteenmile area.	Same as Alternative A.	<p>Apply a CSU restriction within the Fifteenmile MLP Analysis Area. Allow no more than 1 surface disturbance per lease, to include 1 well pad and ancillary facilities, to maintain recreational settings, and conserve geologic features, LRP soils, allow no more than 1 surface disturbance per lease. Total surface disturbance per lease will not exceed 32 acres. A minimum lease size of 640 acres of federal mineral estate would be applied within the analysis area. The lease can consist of noncontiguous parcels. Smaller parcels may be leased only when 640 acres of federal mineral estate are not available and leasing is necessary to remain in compliance with laws, regulations and policy; for example, to protect the federal mineral estate from drainage or to commit the federal mineral estate to unit or communitization agreements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow additional disturbance pending acceptable final reclamation. • Co-locate new disturbance where

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

2000 MINERAL RESOURCES (MR)						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
2046	X	MR:6.6	Allow surface-disturbing activities on fragile soils, biological crusts, soils with low reclamation potential, and soils with highly erosive characteristics on a case-by-case basis.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	<p>Apply a lease notice to restrict surface disturbance on LRP soils and unique geologic features unless the operator and surface managing agency arrive at an acceptable plan for mitigation of anticipated impacts, which may include, but not be limited to include an Erosion, Revegetation and Restoration Plan.</p> <p>The plan must demonstrate to the BLM authorized officer's satisfaction how the operator will meet the following performance standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The disturbed area will be stabilized with no evidence of accelerated erosion features. • The disturbed area shall be managed to ensure soil characteristics approximate an appropriate reference site with regard to erosional features to maintain soil

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

2000 MINERAL RESOURCES (MR)						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slope stability is maintained preventing slope failure and erosion. • Sufficient viable topsoil is maintained for ensuring successful final reclamation. At locations where interim reclamation will be completed, this will be accomplished by respraying all salvaged topsoil over the areas of interim reclamation. • The original landform and site productivity will be partially restored during interim reclamation and fully restored as a result of final reclamation.
2047	X	MR:6.5	Allow OHV use in areas with limited travel designations for NOS level casual use actions.	Prohibit OHV use in areas with limited travel designations for NOS level casual use actions.	Same as Alternative A.	<p>Limit off-road vehicular use for NOS level casual use actions within the Fifteenmile MLP Analysis Area. Allow OHV and mechanized (mountain bike) travel up to 300 feet from established roads in areas with limited travel designations to allow for staking activities, provided that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) no resource damage occurs; 2) no new routes are

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

2000 MINERAL RESOURCES (MR)									
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)	Alternative D (Proposed RMP)	Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)	Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs ACEC)
							created; and 3) such access is not otherwise prohibited by the BLM authorized officer.		
Master Leasing Plans (MLPs) – Big Horn Front									
2048	X	X	MR:6	No similar action.	Manage the Big Horn Front area consistent with other resource objectives.	Do not apply an MLPs.	Apply an MLP to 379,308 acres in the Big Horn Front MLP Analysis Area (Map 35).	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative D.
2049	X	X	MR:6.1 MR:6.2 MR:6.4	Address traditional migration and travel corridors for big game wildlife species and migratory birds on a case-by-case basis.	Prohibit surface-disturbing activities within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of big game migration corridors.	Identify and develop management for traditional migration and travel corridors for big game wildlife species.	Apply a NSO restriction: Prohibit surface-disturbing activities within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of big game migration corridors within the Big Horn Front MLP Analysis Area.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative D.
2050	X	X	MR:6.1 MR:6.2 MR:6.4	Apply a TLS to avoid surface-disturbing and disruptive activities within big game crucial winter range from November 15 through April 30.	Prohibit surface-disturbing and disruptive activities and apply a NSO restriction within big game crucial and winter range.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A. In addition, apply a TLS to avoid surface-disturbing and disruptive activities within elk winter range from November 15 through April 30 within the Big Horn Front MLP Analysis Area.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative D.
							Apply a CSU: Within elk crucial winter range, oil and gas-related surface disturbances would be restricted to no more than 1 location per lease, to include 1 well pad and ancillary facilities. A minimum lease size of 1,280 acres of federal mineral estate would be required. The lease can consist of noncontiguous		

Detailed Alternatives**Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)**

2000 MINERAL RESOURCES (MR)						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
						<p>parcels. Total surface disturbance per lease will not exceed 64 acres. Smaller parcels may be leased only when 1,280 acres of federal mineral estate is not available and leasing is necessary to remain in compliance with laws, regulations and policy; for example, to protect the federal mineral estate from drainage or to commit the federal mineral estate to unit or communizitization agreements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allow additional disturbance pending acceptable final reclamation.• Co-locate new disturbance where technically feasible.• Utilize unitization to minimize surface disturbance in crucial winter range.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

2000 MINERAL RESOURCES (MR)						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
2051	X	X	MR:6.5	Allow OHV vehicle use in areas with limited travel designations for NOS level casual use actions.	Prohibit OHV vehicle use in areas with limited travel designations for NOS level casual use actions.	Same as Alternative A.

Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)	Alternative D (Proposed RMP)	Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)	Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAS ACEC)
2051	X	X	MR:6.5	Allow OHV vehicle use in areas with limited travel designations for NOS level casual use actions.	Prohibit OHV vehicle use in areas with limited travel designations for NOS level casual use actions.	Same as Alternative A.	Limit off-road vehicular use for NOS level casual use actions within the Big Horn Front MLP Analysis Area. Allow OHV and mechanized (mountain bike) travel up to 300 feet from established roads in areas with limited travel designations to allow for staking activities, provided that: 1) no resource damage occurs; 2) no new routes are created; and 3) such access is not otherwise prohibited by the BLM authorized officer.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative D.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

3000 FIRE AND FUELS MANAGEMENT (FM)						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				GOAL FM:1	Reducing risk to firefighters and the public is the first priority in every fire management activity. Protect life, property, and resource values by responding to wildland fires based on ecological and social consequences of the fire and the circumstances under which it occurs.	
				Objectives:	Objectives:	
				FM:1.1	Maintain partnerships with the public and interagency cooperators to strengthen coordination of all fire management activities and encourage the creation of fire safe communities.	
				FM:1.2	Enhance the wildland fire public education prevention program regarding wildland fire.	
				FM:1.3	Manage fuels to restore and maintain landscapes, and promote fire-adapted communities and infrastructure. Fire and fuels management actions will focus on restoring natural fire regimes and frequencies, and accomplishing DPC objectives.	
				FM:1.4	Utilize fire management strategies and tactics that are appropriate for the values at risk while also minimizing impacts on resource values.	
				FM:1.5	Following wildland fires, conduct appropriate emergency stabilization and rehabilitation when and where needed. In priority sage-grouse habitat areas, prioritize suppression immediately after life and property to conserve the habitat. In general sage-grouse habitat, prioritize suppression where wildfires threaten priority sage-grouse habitat.	
				FM:1.6	Management of fire and fuels will be as consistent as possible with approved local fire plans in coordination with counties, cooperators, and stakeholders.	
				GOAL FM:2	Restore natural fire regimes and frequencies to the landscape, and utilize fire and vegetation treatments to accomplish DPC objectives.	
				Objectives:	Objectives:	
				FM:2.1	Consult and cooperate with adjacent landowners, state and local governments, and other stakeholders to plan and implement prescribed fire and other vegetation treatments across the landscape. In areas of general sage-grouse habitat, design and implement fuels treatments with an emphasis on protecting existing sagebrush ecosystems.	
				FM:2.2	Implement and maintain a FMP for the Planning Area; the FMP identifies the site-specific fire management practices and fuels treatment actions needed to meet this RMP's goals and objectives and includes a focus on restoring natural fire regimes and frequencies or accomplishing DPC objectives.	
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES						
3001	X	X	FM:2.1	Ensure all prescribed burning activities comply with Wyoming DEQ air quality standards and smoke management rules.		
3002	X	X	FM:1.5	Implement the BLM Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation standards located in the <i>BLM Burned Area Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Handbook</i> (BLM 2007a).		
3003	X	X	FM:1.4	Base the response to wildfires consistent with objectives and the cost/benefits of the resources at risk.		
3004	X	X	FM:1.4	Restrict or prohibit the use of fire retardant chemicals as appropriate to protect rock art. Avoid aerial application of fire suppressant chemicals within 300 feet of perennial waters. Consider ground-based application on a case-by-case basis.		
3005	X	X	HR:3.3	Prohibit the use of bulldozers in areas of important cultural resources or historic trails for fire suppression unless an archeologist and/or resource advisor is present.		
3006	X	X	HR:1.2	Assign an archeologist to all fires with heavy equipment employed beyond Minimum Impact Suppression Techniques (see Glossary) to assist in determinations of appropriate suppression strategies.		
3007	X	X	FM:1	Maintain and implement an FMP consistent with this RMP to address fire management on a landscape scale. Under the appropriate environmental conditions the use of unplanned ignitions for resource benefit and prescribed fire to meet resource management objectives is allowed in the entire Planning Area.		
3008	X	X	FM:1	Suppress fires threatening greater sage-grouse habitats and crucial winter wildlife habitat within Wyoming big sagebrush communities. Where fire would be utilized to meet		

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

3000 FIRE AND FUELS MANAGEMENT (FM)						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				resource objectives, work closely with resource specialists to protect and improve greater sage-grouse habitat. If prescribed fire is used in greater sage-grouse habitat, the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan will address:		
				• why alternative techniques were not selected as a viable options;		
				• how greater sage-grouse goals and objectives would be met by its use;		
				• how the COT Report objectives would be addressed and met; and		
				• a risk assessment to address how potential threats to greater sage-grouse habitat would be minimized.		
				Prescribed fire as a vegetation or fuels treatment in greater sage-grouse habitat shall only be considered after the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan has addressed the four bullets outlined above. Prescribed fire could be used to meet specific fuels objectives that would protect greater sage-grouse habitat in PHMAS (e.g., creation of fuel breaks that would disrupt the fuel continuity across the landscape in stands where annual invasive grasses are a minor component in the understory, burning slash piles from conifer reduction treatments, used as a component with other treatment methods to combat annual grasses and restore native plant communities).		
				Prescribed fire in known crucial winter wildlife habitat shall only be considered after the NEPA analysis for the Burn Plan has addressed the four bullets outlined above. Any prescribed fire in and/or around crucial winter wildlife habitat must be strategically-designed to reduce wildfire risk and protect winter range habitat quality.		
3009	X	X	FM:1	Protect facilities or habitable structures from fire.		
3010	X	X	FM:2	Cooperate with other agencies and landowners to conduct landscape treatments, resulting in enhanced fuels management and/or restoration of fire-adapted ecosystems.		
3011	X	X	FM:1.1 BR:4.3	In cooperation with the WGFD, identify waters that contain high-risk aquatic invasive species. Avoid using these identified water sources for suppression activities except in cases where public and firefighter safety are threatened.		
3012	X	X	FM:1.1 BR:4.3	Clean (i.e., disinfect) fire-fighting equipment where water sources containing high-risk aquatic invasive species must be utilized.		
3013	X	X	FM:2	Reduce hazardous fuels in the wildland urban interface.		
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
3014	X	X	FM:1.4 FM:1.1	Base the response to wildland fire on the ecological, social, and legal consequences of the fire.	Response to wildland fire may vary from full suppression in areas where fire is undesirable, to monitoring fire behavior in areas where fire can be used as a management tool.	Same as Alternative B. Same as Alternative B. Same as Alternative B.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

3000 FIRE AND FUELS MANAGEMENT (FM)						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
3015	X	X	FM:2.1 FM:2.2	Utilize wildland fires (wildfires managed for resource benefit and prescribed fires) to restore fire-adapted ecosystems and reduce hazardous fuels.	Utilize wildland fires (wildfires managed for resource benefit and prescribed fires) and other vegetation treatments to restore fire-adapted ecosystems for natural resource systems and reduce hazardous fuels.	Utilize wildland fires (wildfires managed for resource benefit and prescribed fires) and other vegetation treatments to restore fire-adapted ecosystems and enhance forage for commodity production and reduce hazardous fuels.
3016	X	X	FM:2.1 FM:2.2	Use mechanical, chemical, and biological treatments across the landscape as needed to restore vegetative diversity and reduce the risk of unnatural fire within those ecosystems.	Use mechanical, chemical, or biological treatments only in the wildland-urban interface to protect structures and private property from the effects of unwanted fire.	Same as Alternative A.

Alternative D
(Proposed RMP)

Alternative E
(Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)

Alternative F
(Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs ACEC)

Same as Alternative D.

Same as Alternative B.

Same as Alternative D.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Vegetation – Forests, Woodlands, and Forest Products						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
GOAL BR:1 Maintain, enhance, or restore forest stand community health, composition, and diversity taking into account density, basal area, canopy cover, age class, stand health, and understory components.						
			Objectives:			
			BR:1.1	Maintain overall forest health by managing forest and woodland stands for endemic populations of native insects and disease.		
			BR:1.2	Provide for commercial and local forest product needs in consideration of other resource values.		
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES						
4001	X	X	BR:1.1 BR:1.2	Close campgrounds to cutting of timber and firewood, except for purposes of public safety and campground management.		
4002	X	X	BR:1.1	Regenerate all harvest areas by natural or artificial means consistent with BLM policy. If at the end of fifteen years any clear-cut area fails to regenerate naturally, use planting and other methods to assure regeneration unless converting vegetation to another type is the objective.		
4003	X	X	BR:1.1	Slash resulting from timber harvesting will be made available for biomass, piled or lopped and scattered, roller chopped, or burned to provide watershed protection, promote reforestation, provide nutrient recycling, and improve wildlife habitat.		
4004	X	X	BR:1.1	Require a permit for harvesting firewood and other forest products on BLM-administered land, except for small amounts used onsite for camping, cooking, or warming.		
4005	X	X	BR:1.1	Surface-disturbing activities associated with all types of forest management are subject to appropriate mitigation developed through use of the mitigation guidelines described in the Wyoming Forestry BMPs (Appendix L).		
4006	X	X	BR:1.1	Consider the commercial harvest of forest products and other vegetative treatments on all forest and woodland areas, except those areas excluded from harvest by law or statute, to accomplish wildlife, watershed, and forest management objectives. Base actual harvest levels on treatments needed to meet management objectives to restore historic processes, composition, and structures of the forests and woodlands.		
4007	X	X	BR:1.1 BR:1.2	Allowable cut figures, when calculated, reflect the level of harvest needed to develop and maintain the desired structure of forestland base.		
4008	X	X	BR:1.2	Allow the sale of permits to meet public demand for personal use and harvest of forest products including posts, poles, firewood, sawlogs, Christmas trees, and other vegetative products consistent with wildlife habitat requirements. After NEPA analysis, authorize commercial use for seed collections for use in habitat restoration or research.		
4009	X	X	BR:1.1	Apply forest management techniques to attain the management goals of timber production and enhancement of other resource values if traditional forms of logging are not possible or if stands are not purchased when offered for sale. These may include: (1) burning instead of logging, (2) disease treatment by spraying, (3) spraying grasses and shrubs to eliminate competition with tree species, or (4) non-commercial mechanical treatments.		
4010	X	X	BR:1	Manage forestland on Rattlesnake Mountain as a restricted management area where forest management and timber and firewood cutting emphasize maintenance or improvement of forest, wildlife, watershed, and recreation resource values.		
4011	X	X	BR:1.2	Manage all forestlands outside the Rattlesnake Mountain area to enhance or maintain resources or multiple resource uses, such as recreation opportunities, livestock grazing, forest products, wildlife, watershed, and scenic values where appropriate for the forest type. Some of these lands are on the west slope of the Big Horn Mountains, Absaroka Mountains, and on Little Mountain.		
4012	X	X	BR:1.1	Apply partial cutting, extended forest crop rotations, or other restrictions on forest management where applicable.		
4013	X	X	BR:1.1	Evaluate the size, extent, distance from roads, and characteristics of forestland vegetation, when forest harvests are considered, to maintain or improve the effectiveness of residual wildlife security areas.		

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Vegetation – Forests, Woodlands, and Forest Products						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
Alternative D (Proposed RMP)						
4014	X	X	BR:1.1	Maintain sustainable populations of forest and woodland tree species, including limber pine, subalpine fir, whitebark pine, cottonwood, willow, Rocky Mountain juniper, Utah juniper, and aspen, while enhancing the management of intermingled resources and resources uses, such as watersheds, wildlife habitat, scenic values, recreation opportunities, and livestock grazing.		
4015	X	X	BR:1.1	Actively promote aspen regeneration throughout the Planning Area using a variety of vegetation treatments and natural processes.		
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
4016	X	X	BR:1.1 BR:1.2	Plant conifer areas exposed by wildfire and harvesting with conifer species if they do not regenerate naturally within 15 years.	Same as Alternative A, except plant if exposed areas do not regenerate within 20 years.	Same as Alternative A, except plant if exposed areas do not regenerate within 10 years.
4017	X	X	BR:1.1	No similar action.	Retain old growth forest areas over a 30-year period in an appropriate proportion to other timber classes within a HUC Level 4 sub-basin, unless altered by natural processes. Identify old growth forest characteristics for the various forest types. Adopt connectivity of existing or potential old growth areas if appropriate and consistent with other management.	Retain old growth forest areas at appropriate locations and distribution levels, within a HUC Level 4 sub-basin as evaluations occur. Identify old growth forest characteristics for the various forest types. Adopt connectivity of existing or potential old growth areas whenever feasible.
4018	X	X	BR:1.1	Allow salvage of dead stands on a case-by-case basis.	Manage outbreaks of endemic insect and disease outbreaks only as necessary for human	Manage endemic insect and disease with the full range of silviculture techniques and treatment

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Vegetation – Forests, Woodlands, and Forest Products						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				health and safety (endemic insect and disease outbreaks are a natural part of the forest life-cycle).	Conduct salvage operations where necessary to improve wildlife habitat, including appropriate levels of snag retention and as necessary for human health and safety.	Conduct salvage operations for the removal of dead stands where economically feasible.
4019	X	X	BR:1.1	Allow salvage of dead stands on a case-by-case basis with appropriate levels of snag retention.	Do not allow precommercial thinning except for fuels treatment.	Same as Alternative A, except allow precommercial thinning when trees reach the 10- to 20-year age class or when the regenerated trees are 5- to 15-feet tall.
4020	X	X	BR:1.2	Allow precommercial thinning in overstocked areas and regenerated timber sale areas when trees in those areas reach the 20- to 30-year age class.	Close roads not required for other existing uses.	Allow spur roads to remain open to meet other resource goals and objectives or for new recreational purposes.
4021	X	X	BR:1	Assess the need to close existing and future timber access and haul roads on a case-by-case basis. Generally, close spur roads after completion of timber management.	Same as Alternative A, except allow treatments only where natural processes are unable to accomplish forest health goals.	Same as Alternative A.
4022	X	X	BR:1.1	Perform treatments in all woodland types, including but not limited to juniper, aspen, cottonwood, and ponderosa, limber, and whitebark pine woodlands.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative B.
4023	X	X	BR:1.1	Manage wildland fire s and logging or timbering whenever possible to	Use natural processes to revitalize decadent stands, improve stand density, and other natural processes to	Use logging, timbering, or wildland fire when appropriate to revitalize

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Vegetation – Forests, Woodlands, and Forest Products						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				revitalize decadent stands, improve stand density, and increase canopy cover.	increase canopy cover.	revitalize decadent stands, improve stand density, and increase canopy cover.
4024	X	X	BR:1.1	Manage conifer encroachment to improve wildlife habitat and forest health conditions.	Same as Alternative A.	Manage conifer encroachment to enhance livestock grazing.
4025	X	X	BR:1.2	Within the areas classified as commercial forestland, conduct timber harvesting in a manner that protects and benefits watershed, wildlife, and riparian/wetland habitat values; emphasize areas where forest health is a primary concern.	Same as Alternative A, except only conduct timber harvesting where natural processes are unable to accomplish forest health goals.	Allow timber harvesting within areas classified as commercial forestland.
4026	X	X	BR:1.1	Use a variety of silvicultural practices and cutting methods, such as clear cutting, shelterwood, individual tree and group selection, and various regeneration treatments.	First use natural processes to accomplish forest health goals, followed by silvicultural practices if natural processes are not effective.	Same as Alternative A.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Vegetation – Forests, Woodlands, and Forest Products						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
4027	X	X	BR:1.1	In important seasonal wildlife habitat areas, generally restrict clear cuts to no more than 300 yards in any direction, unless a long-term benefit to wildlife habitat would result.	Prohibit clear cuts and harvest methods that create clear cuts.	Same as Alternative A, except generally restrict clear cuts to no more than 100 acres unless salvaging dead or dying timber.

Same as Alternative C.

Same as Alternative E.

Same as Alternative F.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Vegetation – Grassland and Shrubland Communities						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				GOAL BR:2	Manage vegetation resources to meet DPC objectives.	
				Objectives:		
				BR:2.1	Manage native plant communities to restore, maintain, or enhance vegetation community health, composition, and diversity to provide a mix of successional stages that incorporate diverse structure and composition into the desired vegetation types.	
				BR:2.2	Maintain, improve, enhance, or restore native plant communities to facilitate the conservation, recovery, and maintenance of populations of native and desirable nonnative plant species and wildlife habitat.	
				BR:2.3	Maintain, improve, or enhance areas of ecological importance, priority plant species and habitats, and unique plant associations with native plant communities.	
				BR:2.4	Manage native plant communities across landscapes through cooperation with adjacent landowners, state and local governments, and other stakeholders.	
				BR:2.5	Coordinate with local, state, and federal agencies, and stakeholders to protect and recover native plant communities, and their included vegetative resources and habitat components affected by extreme environmental conditions.	
				BR:2.6	In PHMAs, the desired condition is to maintain a minimum of 70 percent of lands capable of producing sagebrush with 10 to 30 percent sagebrush canopy cover. The attributes necessary to sustain these habitats are described in Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health (BLM Technical Reference 1734-6 [BLM2005c]).	
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES						
4028	X	X	BR:2.1 BR:2.2 BR:2.4 BR:2.6	Manage native plant communities (Map 36) in accordance with <i>Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands</i> . Use ESDs and other available information, resource objectives established in this RMP, and specific management practices to maintain or achieve the standards.		
4029	X	X	BR:2	Continue to monitor and evaluate climatic and vegetative data. Compile and share data with other land management agencies and partners within the Planning Area using a cooperative, collaborative approach. Should the analysis of data indicate that the vegetative resource is either not meeting or making significant progress towards meeting the <i>Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands</i> or other site specific vegetative objectives, corrective management actions will be implemented to achieve desired results.		
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
4030	X	X	BR:2.1- 2.4 BR:2.6	Implement DPC objectives for Watershed Protection, Forestland Management, and Livestock Grazing. Use the following DPC objectives to emphasize watershed protection, forestland health, and livestock grazing on at least 600,000 acres of BLM-administered land in the Planning Area not	Manage to achieve or make progress towards the reference state plant community based on the ESD for the site. The appropriate functional structural plant groups must be present for the site. Manage areas at a lower level of ecological status to provide preferred habitat for wildlife species with unique habitat requirements on a case-by-case basis.	Manage to achieve or make progress toward the appropriate community phase for the site. Manage areas at a lower level of ecological status to provide preferred habitat for wildlife species with unique habitat requirements on a case-by-case basis. Potentially manage some areas for a higher plant

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Vegetation – Grassland and Shrubland Communities						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	
Alternative C (More Resource Use)	Alternative D (Proposed RMP)	Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACE)	Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHIMAS ACE)			
				<p>containing important wildlife habitat (all percentages listed below are expressed in terms of composition by weight):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salt Desert Shrub Communities: shrubs 30 to 60 percent, grasses 30 to 60 percent, forbs 5 to 15 percent, with shrubs increasing on high saline sites • Salt Bottom Communities: shrubs 20 to 40 percent, grasses 50 to 70 percent, forbs 5 to 15 percent • Basin Grassland/Shrub Communities: shrubs 10 to 20 percent, grasses 60 to 80 percent, forbs 10 to 20 percent • Foothills-Mountain Grassland/Shrub Communities: shrubs 10 to 30 percent, grasses 60 to 80 percent, forbs 10 to 20 percent • Low Gradient/Alluvial Riparian Communities: shrubs 0 to 15 percent, grasses and grass-likes 70 to 90 percent, forbs 5 to 15 percent 	<p>unique habitat requirements on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>community state or phase (based on state and transition models in ESDs) where site-specific management objectives determine that a higher plant community state or phase is desirable. In these areas the desired plant community states or phases will be determined on a site-specific basis at the implementation level.</p> <p>Manage areas at a lower level of ecological status to provide preferred habitat for wildlife species with unique habitat requirements on a case-by-case basis.</p>	

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Vegetation – Grassland and Shrubland Communities						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intermediate Riparian Communities: trees and shrubs 10 to 30 percent, grasses and grass-likes 50 to 70 percent, forbs 10 to 30 percent • Desert Cottonwood Riparian Communities: trees and shrubs 10 to 30 percent, grasses and grass-likes 50 to 70 percent, forbs 10 to 30 percent • Woodland Communities: Same as Foothills-Mountain Grassland/Shrub Communities on areas where invasion of limber pine and juniper has occurred on deeper soils (there is no specific objective where woodlands occur on very shallow soils) 		
4031	X	X	BR:2.1- 2.3 BR:2.6	No similar action.	Manage to maintain contiguous blocks of native plant communities and minimize fragmentation; allow for appropriate mosaic of interrelated plant communities while allowing for other resource uses.	Same as Alternative A. Same as Alternative B.
						Same as Alternative B.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Vegetation – Riparian/Wetland Resources						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				GOAL BR:3	Manage riparian/wetland areas to provide a natural combination of vegetation and landform to provide the habitat and the water conditions necessary for aquatic and terrestrial species.	
Objectives:						
				BR3.1	Manage vegetation, soil, landform, and water to meet PFC.	
				BR3.2	Manage priority riparian/wetland areas to attain desired future conditions unique to the landscape setting.	
				BR3.3	Manage riparian/wetland areas with consideration of the effects of all herbivory.	
				BR3.4	Manage riparian/wetland areas in consideration of the working landscape.	
				BR3.5	Manage riparian/wetland vegetation communities to attain an appropriate mix of wetland plant species and age-classes, with high vigor and extensive root systems, capable of withstanding high streamflow events.	
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES						
4032	X	X	BR3.1	Manage to meet PFC and Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands in lotic and lentic riparian/wetland areas.		
			BR3.2			
			BR3.4			
			BR3.5			
4033	X	X	BR3.1	Consider linear watercourse crossings on a case-by-case basis.		
			BR3.2			
			BR3.4			
			BR3.5			
4034	X	X	BR3.1	Ensure all actions comply with EO 11988, <i>Floodplain Management</i> , and EO 11990, <i>Protection of Wetlands</i> , and the Wyoming DEQ water quality standards, applicable regulations, and permitting requirements, including US Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 permits, storm water, and other Wyoming Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits.		
			BR3.2			
			BR3.4			
			BR3.5			
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
4035	X	X	BR3.1	Manage all riparian/wetland areas (23.957 acres) to meet or make progress towards PFC.	Manage all riparian/wetland areas (23.957 acres) to achieve DPC. Prioritize those areas not meeting PFC.	Manage all riparian/wetland areas to meet or make progress towards PFC giving priority to those areas that are functioning at risk with a downward trend or that are in non-functioning condition.
			BR3.2			
			BR3.4			
			BR3.5			
4036	X	X	BR3.1	Prohibit surface-disturbing activities within 500 feet of surface water and	Prohibit surface-disturbing activities within ½ mile of or within riparian/wetland areas (162,887 acres),	Allow surface-disturbing activities in flood plains or riparian/wetland areas on a case-by-case basis.
			BR3.2			
			BR3.4			
			BR3.5			

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Vegetation – Riparian/Wetland Resources						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
			riparian/wetland areas (70,715 acres) except when such activities are necessary and when their impacts can be mitigated.	Allow sediment reduction structures on a case-by-case basis.		
4037	X	X	BR3.1 BR3.2 BR3.4 BR3.5	No similar action.	Apply a NSO restriction on wetland areas greater than 40 acres.	Same as Alternative A. Apply a NSO restriction on wetland areas greater than 20 acres and on designated 100-year flood plains.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Invasive Species and Pest Management						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				GOAL BR:4	Manage for healthy native plant communities by reducing, preventing expansion of, or eliminating the occurrence of undesirable invasive, nonnative species, undesirable, nonnative, or noxious weeds (predatory plant pests or disease) by implementing management actions consistent with national guidance and state and local weed management plans.	
				Objectives:		
				BR:4.1	Maintain internal (BLM) and external support for managing invasive species using an integrated approach for the detection, control, or eradication of new infestations.	
				BR:4.2	Maintain adequate baseline information regarding the extent and control of invasive species to make informed decisions, evaluate effectiveness of management actions, and assess progress toward goals to improve invasive species management.	
				BR:4.3	Continue coordination of invasive species detection and control activities across the working landscape including non BLM-administered lands, and include provisions for invasive species management for all BLM-funded or authorized actions.	
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES						
4038	X	X	BR:4.1-4.3	Manage invasive plant species in the Planning Area in conjunction with local counties and other stakeholders consistent with the ROD for the Final PEIS addressing <i>Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on BLM Lands in 17 Western States</i> (BLM 2007b), and current with policy and similar guidance updated over time.		
4039	X	X	BR:4.1-4.3	Manage invasive plant species using an Integrated Pest Management approach consistent with DOI Manual 51.7, <i>Integrated Pest Management</i> (DOI 2007).		
4040	X	X	BR:4	Avoid raptor and migratory bird nesting seasons and other times when loss of cover or disturbance by equipment used in a treatment is determined to be detrimental.		
4041	X	X	BR:4.1-4.3	In cooperation with APHIS and other stakeholders, work to control outbreaks of grasshopper and Mormon crickets on BLM-administered land in the Planning Area in accordance with the MOU between BLM and APHIS.		
4042	X	X	BR:4.1 BR:4.3	Use certified noxious weed-free vegetation products on all BLM-administered land in the Planning Area.		
4043	X	X	BR:4	Allow the application of pesticides within the Spanish Point Karst ACEC when drinking water will not be impacted.		
4044	X	X	BR:4.2	Develop and maintain an invasive species and pest management plan. If necessary, review and update this plan annually based on available funding and input from other agencies, organizations, and interested stakeholders.		
4045	X	X	BR:4.2 BR:4.3	Reduce and prevent the expansion of cheatgrass through cooperation with other agencies, organizations, and interested stakeholders.		
4046	X	X	BR:4.2 BR:4.3	Reduce and prevent beet leafhopper infestations on BLM-administered land through cooperation with appropriate government and state agencies, private industry, and other interested stakeholders.		
4047	X	X	BR:4.3	Cooperate and coordinate with appropriate government agencies, private industry, and other interested stakeholders in public education, research, management, and control of aquatic invasive species.		
4048	X	X	BR:4.3	In cooperation with other agencies, organizations, and interested stakeholders, seek opportunities to promote public awareness and prevention of noxious and invasive species through public outreach, volunteer programs, signage, and other appropriate measures.		

Detailed Alternatives**Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)**

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Invasive Species and Pest Management						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
4049	X	X	BR:4	Allow aerial application of pesticides on a case-by-case basis in coordination with the authorized officer.	Prohibit aerial application of pesticides within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of riparian/wetland areas and aquatic habitats. Allow exceptions to manage riparian weed species.	Prohibit aerial application of pesticides within 100 feet of riparian/wetlands areas and aquatic habitats. Allow exceptions to manage riparian weed species.
4050	X	X	BR:4.1-4.3	Require livestock flushing on a case-by-case basis.	Allow the authorized officer to require livestock be flushed for a period of 72 hours before allowing them to move onto or within BLM-administered land when the authorized officer determines that livestock are likely carrying ingested invasive, nonnative plant species seeds.	Do not require livestock flushing.

Alternative A.

Same as Alternative A.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Fish and Wildlife Resources						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
GOAL BR:5 In compliance with the <i>Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands</i> , manage for the biological integrity of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems to sustain or enhance fish and wildlife habitat, while providing for multiple uses of BLM-administered lands.						
Objectives:						
BR:5.1				Manage habitat to conserve, recover, and maintain fish and wildlife consistent with appropriate local, state, and federal management plans.		
BR:5.2				Work cooperatively with the WGFD to recommend adjustments to herd objectives based upon habitat condition trends and recommend wildlife use adjustments if monitoring data indicate adjustments are necessary.		
BR:5.3				Manage fish and wildlife habitats in consideration of the working landscape.		
GOAL BR:6 Manage environmental risks and associated impacts in a manner compatible with sustaining plant, fish, and wildlife populations.						
Objectives:						
BR:6.1				Minimize, avoid, and mitigate impacts of environmental risks on fish and wildlife.		
BR:6.2				Manage pesticide, rodenticide, and herbicide application in a manner compatible with fish and wildlife health.		
BR:6.3				Coordinate with other agencies to prevent or control diseases that threaten the health of humans, wildlife, livestock, and vegetation.		
BR:6.4				Coordinate with other agencies who manage native and nonnative predatory animals that pose a threat to the health or productivity of natural ecosystems.		
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES (All Fish and Wildlife)						
4051	X	X	BR:5.1 BR:5.3	Coordinate with WGFD to design reservoirs with consideration of fish and wildlife habitat values.		
4052	X		BR:5.1 BR:5.3	Continue the Bald Ridge Area human presence seasonal closure currently January 1 to April 30 in cooperation with stakeholders. The closure date may be adjusted to correspond with big game hunting seasons.		

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

4000 – BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Fish and Wildlife Resources – Fish						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
Fish						
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
4053	X	X	BR:5.1 BR:5.3 BR:6.1	Direct priority management in planning/actions for fisheries to perennial waters containing fish or contributing directly to fisheries on a case-by-case basis.	Direct priority management in planning/actions for fisheries to perennial waters containing fish or contributing directly to fisheries.	Same as Alternative A.
4054	X	X	BR:5.1 BR:5.3	Manage intermittent streams on a case-by-case basis.	Manage intermittent streams judged as having potential to become, or return to being, perennial streams with fish on a watershed scale to acquire perennial flows values in compliance with Wyoming water laws.	Same as Alternative A.
4055	X	X	BR:5.1 BR:5.3 BR:6.1	Apply a NSO restriction and manage surface-disturbing activities using standard restrictions (see surface-disturbing guidelines in Appendix H) within 500 feet of surface water and riparian areas.	Apply a NSO restriction and prohibit surface-disturbing activities within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of any waters rated by the WGF as Blue Ribbon or Red Ribbon (trout streams of national or statewide importance) and the Bighorn River, Nowood River, Paint Rock Creek, Shell Creek, Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River, Shoshone River and its North and South Forks. All other fisheries are subject to a minimum buffer of 500 feet.	Same as Alternative A. Apply a NSO restriction and prohibit surface-disturbing activities within 500 feet and apply a CSU and avoid surface-disturbing activities within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of any waters rated by the WGF as Blue Ribbon or Red Ribbon (trout streams of national or statewide importance).

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

4000 – BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Fish and Wildlife Resources – Fish						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
4056	X	X	BR:5.1 BR:5.3 BR:6.1	Perform restoration of streams and fisheries habitat on a case-by-case basis.	Restore or reclaim important stream segments for fisheries habitat, through upland management and hydrologic function enhancement actions on at least 10 lotic miles and 80 lentic acres.	Same as Alternative A.
4057	X	X	BR:5.1 BR:5.3 BR:6.1	Manage fisheries habitat to improve and enhance its value through the implementation of management practices such as vegetation manipulation and planting, installing sediment and erosion control structures, fencing, and acquiring, developing, and maintaining water sources.	Same as Alternative A, plus implement management practices such as acquiring, developing, and maintaining land and water sources.	On a priority basis and in coordination with stakeholders, restore and reclaim important stream segments for fisheries habitat with the highest priority given to species listed on the <i>State Species of Greatest Conservation Need</i> .

Alternative E
(Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)

Alternative D
(Proposed RMP)

Alternative B.

Same as Alternative A.

Same as Alternative A.

Same as Alternative A.

Same as Alternative A.

Alternative F
(Greater Sage-Grouse PHIMAs ACEC)

Alternative D.

Same as Alternative B.

Same as Alternative A.

Same as Alternative A.

Same as Alternative A.

Same as Alternative A.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

4000 – BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Fish and Wildlife Resources – Fish						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
4058	X	X	BR:5.1 BR:5.3 BR:6.1	Encourage reservoir design to enhance fisheries and to establish minimum pools sufficient to maintain viable fisheries. Maintain existing reservoir and stream fishery habitat. Existing reservoirs are managed by the ROW stipulations attached to them at the time of their construction and the BLM encourages managing for minimum pool levels, but cannot require them after issuing a ROW.	In cooperation with W/GFD, require mitigation that includes minimum pool depths sufficient to maintain viable fisheries and adequate public access routes to the water for applications for ROWs for the construction of new impoundments on BLM-administered land, where practical. Manage existing reservoirs, under existing ROWs, to the extent possible, while encouraging minimum pool management.	Encourage but do not require mitigation for creating or maintaining viable fisheries, unless required by law or policy.
4059	X	X	BR:5.1 BR:5.3 BR:6.1	No similar action.	Design or retrofit culverts in streams containing fish to allow fish passage, both upstream and downstream, in both low and high water flows. Harden low water crossings to minimize sediment movement. Low water crossings should be perpendicular to streams and located in straight stream reaches to avoid flow modification that could cause erosion of banks.	Same as Alternative B, except on a priority basis.

Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)

Same as Alternative B.

Same as Alternative D.

Same as Alternative E.

Same as Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHIMAs ACEC)

Same as Alternative D.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Fish and Wildlife Resources – Wildlife						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
Wildlife						
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES						
4060	X	X	BR:5.1	Maintain or improve important wildlife habitats through vegetative manipulations, habitat improvement projects, livestock grazing strategies and the application of <i>The Wyoming Guidelines for Managing Sagebrush Communities with Emphasis on Fire Management</i> (Wyoming Interagency Vegetation Committee 2002), and the <i>Wyoming BLM Standard Mitigation Guidelines for Surface-Disturbing and Disruptive Activities</i> (Appendix H). BMPs (Appendix L), and similar guidance updated over time.		
4061	X	X	BR:5.1	Continue to implement the following existing HMPs and update as necessary to include management objectives and prescriptions for wildlife: West Slope HMP, Bighorn River HMP, and Absaroka Front HMP.		
4062	X	X	BR:5.1 BR:6.1	Prohibit surface-disturbing and disruptive activities in the Bighorn River HMP/RAMP tracts and the BLM-administered tracts in Yellowtail WHMA and apply a NSO restriction as appropriate. Exceptions include casual use and uses related to the development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat, including vegetation treatments.		
4063	X	X	BR:5.1 BR:5.2	In cooperation with the USFS, WGFD, and other stakeholders, work to maintain and enhance healthy bighorn sheep habitat.		
4064	X	X	BR:5.1- 5.3	In cooperation with the USFS, USFWS, WGFD, and other stakeholders, work to determine the feasibility of reestablishing bighorn sheep at other suitable locations.		
4065	X	X	BR:5.1- 5.3	Consider transmission of disease between wildlife and domestic livestock in grazing authorizations. Follow the recommendations for the protection of bighorn sheep in the <i>Statewide Bighorn/Domestic Sheep Interaction Report</i> (Wyoming State-wide Bighorn/Domestic Sheep Interaction Working Group 2004), and <i>Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) Wild Sheep Working Group Initial Subcommittee Recommendations for Domestic Sheep and Goat Management in Wild Sheep Habitat June 12, 2007</i> (WAFWA 2007), and similar guidance that is updated over time.		
4066	X	X	BR:5.1 BR:5.2	In cooperation with stakeholders on a case-by-case basis, manage for the augmentation and/or reintroduction of important wildlife species within suitable habitats and in accordance with applicable policy and guidance (e.g., BLM Manual 1745, <i>Introduction, Transplant, Augmentation and Reestablishment of Fish, Wildlife and Plants</i>).		
4067	X	X	BR:5.2 BR:6.4	Coordinate authorized animal damage control with federal and state wildlife agencies, and other agencies, as appropriate, using guidance provided by the existing MOU (APHIS and BLM 2003).		
4068	X	X	BR:6.1	Consult with the WGFD in applying mitigation for wildlife needs and before waiving, allowing exceptions to, or modifying wildlife-related land use restrictions and mitigation in conformance with MOU WY131 Appendix 5 (g).		
4069	X	X	BR:6.1	In consideration of other resources, provide, to the extent possible, suitable habitat to support wildlife populations defined in the Cody Region Big Game Job Completion Report (http://gf.state.wy.us/wildlife/index.asp) objectives. Cooperatively consider proposals by the BLM or WGFD to change population objective levels based on habitat capability and availability.		
4070	X	X	BR:5.1	In cooperation with WGFD, local governments, and other stakeholders, limit access (including public access via all modes-of-transport) where necessary in crucial habitat and sensitive species habitat. The type of limitation, if any, depends on the kind of resource value being protected.		
4071	X	X	BR:5.1 BR:5.2	In cooperation with WGFD and other stakeholders, work to develop water sources for wildlife and special status species in coordination with the WGFD and the BLM Water Development Handbook (H-1741-2).		

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Fish and Wildlife Resources – Wildlife						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
4072	X	X	BR:5.1 BR:5.3	Conduct prescribed burns on 150–500 acres of BLM-administered land per year, based on potential for initial burns and then as needed for repeat cyclic burning.	Conduct habitat enhancement treatments within sagebrush communities on at least 200 acres of BLM-administered land per year.	Conduct habitat enhancement treatments within sagebrush communities as opportunities and funding allow, consistent with EO 2011-5.
4073	X	X	BR:5.1 BR:6.1	Modify identified hazard fences, and analyze and construct new fences in accordance with appropriate wildlife needs and the BLM Fencing Handbook 1741-1.	When opportunities arise due to fire or permittee interest, modify identified hazard fences and analyze and construct new fences in accordance with appropriate wildlife needs and the BLM Fencing handbook, 1741-1.	Same as Alternative A.
4074	X	X	BR:5.1-5.3	Restore and maintain 25–200 acres of aspen stands per year until 2,000–4,000 acres are under management.	Restore 100 acres per year of aspen stands for wildlife values.	Do not restore aspen stands for wildlife values.
4075	X	X	BR:5.1 BR:5.3	Pursue exchanges to enhance public access or improve management of important wildlife habitat areas by consolidating public land.	Same as Alternative A, plus in cooperation with willing sellers and other stakeholders, consider all land tenure adjustment authorities for the acquisition of, and interest in, lands for the improved management of important wildlife habitat.	Do not acquire lands or interest in lands to enhance public access or improve management of important wildlife habitat.
				Emphasize the acquisition of access to public lands on the Bighorn, Shoshone, Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone, and Greybull rivers; Gooseberry Creek; the upper portions of		

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Fish and Wildlife Resources – Wildlife						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
			Cottonwood and Grass Creeks; and on lands where other riparian areas occur.			
4076	X	X	BR:6.1	Apply a TLS to avoid surface-disturbing and disruptive activities within big game crucial winter range (1,324,371 acres) from November 15 through April 30.	Prohibit surface-disturbing and disruptive activities and apply a NSO restriction within big game crucial winter range (1,324,371 acres).	Same as Alternative A, except exempt Oil and Gas Management Areas (Map 24) and ROW corridors from discretionary wildlife seasonal stipulations.
4077	X	X	BR:6.1	Apply CSU stipulation for big game migration corridors (Map 39), narrow ridges, overlapping big game crucial winter range (72,850 acres of BLM-administered surface land; 145,312 acres of federal mineral estate).	Absaroka Front Management Area (130,872 acres of BLM-administered surface land; 253,117 acres of federal mineral estate): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• closed to mineral leasing• manage as a renewable energy avoidance area• close to geophysical exploration• manage as a ROW avoidance area• partially closed to motorized vehicle use and limited to designated roads and trails on the rest of the area Allow and seasonally stipulate, where feasible, vegetative/silviculture treatments; invasive, nonnative pest species control; fuels management; and maintenance of existing facilities.	Same as Alternative A, except exempt Oil and Gas Management Areas (Map 25) from discretionary big game seasonal stipulations. Same as Alternative B, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 130,872 acres of BLM-administered surface land; 253,117 acres of federal mineral estate:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• open to oil and gas and other leaseable minerals• open to locatable mineral entry• open to renewable energy development• open to geophysical exploration• open to ROW authorizations on a case-by-case basis• motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails and subject to seasonal limitations• a mix of TLS (4,857 acres), CSU (111,410 acres), NSO (41,177 acres), and closed to leasing (87,755 acres) on the federal mineral estate (Map 37)• areas available for leasing are open to geophysical exploration with specific resource protection• Allow and seasonally stipulate, where feasible, vegetative/silviculture treatments; invasive, nonnative pest species control; fuels management; and maintenance of existing facilities; and Same as Alternative B, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 130,872 acres of BLM-administered surface land; 253,117 acres of federal mineral estate:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• open to oil and gas and other leaseable minerals• open to locatable mineral entry• open to renewable energy development• open to geophysical exploration• open to ROW authorizations on a case-by-case basis• motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails and subject to seasonal limitations• a mix of TLS (23,076 acres), CSU (128,606 acres), NSO (14,209 acres), and closed to leasing (87,755 acres) on the federal mineral estate (Map 38)• areas available for leasing are open to geophysical exploration with specific resource protection Same as Alternative B, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 130,872 acres of BLM-administered surface land; 253,117 acres of federal mineral estate:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• open to oil and gas and other leaseable minerals• open to locatable mineral entry• open to renewable energy development• open to geophysical exploration• open to ROW authorizations on a case-by-case basis• motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails and subject to seasonal limitations• Allow and seasonally stipulate, where feasible, vegetative/silviculture treatments; invasive, nonnative pest species control; fuels management; and maintenance of existing facilities.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Fish and Wildlife Resources – Wildlife						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
					maintenance of existing facilities.	
4078	X	X	BR:6.1	Prohibit water developments for livestock in elk crucial winter range unless adverse effects can be avoided, minimized and/or compensated based on site-specific analysis. Allow existing uses pending site-specific analysis.	Prohibit new livestock water development projects in big game crucial winter range, greater sage-grouse nesting habitat, and areas important for special status species unless no negative effect on wildlife can be demonstrated.	Allow new livestock water development projects in big game crucial winter range, greater sage-grouse nesting habitat, and areas important for special status species to meet multiple use objectives.
4079	X	X	BR:6.1	Determine wildlife seasonal protections for surface-disturbing and disruptive activities related to the maintenance and operation (including production) of project on a case-by-case basis.	Apply wildlife seasonal protections for surface-disturbing and disruptive activities to maintenance and operation (including production) of projects when the actions are determined to be detrimental to wildlife. (Appendix H lists detrimental actions).	Do not apply wildlife seasonal protections to maintenance and operation actions.
4080	X	X	BR:5.1 BR:6.1	Address traditional migration and travel corridors for big game wildlife species and migratory birds on a case-by-case basis.	Identify and preserve traditional migration and travel corridors for big game wildlife species and migratory birds. Prohibit surface-disturbing activities within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of big game migration corridors (97,808 acres) (Map 40). Avoid construction of big game corridors.	Identify and develop management for traditional migration and travel corridors for big game wildlife species and migratory birds (Map 41). Prohibit surface-disturbing activities within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of big game migration corridors (97,808 acres) (Map 42).

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Fish and Wildlife Resources – Wildlife						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
4081	X	X	BR:5.1	Determine the appropriate DPC to manage vegetation on a case-by-case basis in areas identified as habitat for special status species or crucial winter range for big game.	Manage vegetation in areas identified as habitat for special status species or crucial winter range for big game to the DPC that will be the most beneficial for the identified species while also considering the habitat needs of other species.	Manage vegetation in areas identified as habitat for special status species or crucial winter range for big game to the DPC that is a combination community that benefits all grazing/browsing animals.
4082	X	X	BR:6.1	Manage the location of wind energy projects on a case-by-case basis consistent with the Wind Energy Programmatic EIS ROD (BLM 2005a) and IM 2009-043, <i>Wind Energy Development Policy</i> .	Avoid wind energy projects in big game crucial winter range, raptor concentration areas, and greater sage-grouse nesting, brood-rearing, and winter areas.	Avoid wind energy projects on a case-by-case basis in big game winter crucial range, raptor concentration areas, and greater sage-grouse nesting, brood-rearing, and winter areas.
4083	X	X	BR:5.1	Use produced water, where reasonable and practical, to develop and enhance waterfowl, special status species, and other wildlife habitats.	Do not use produced water to develop and enhance waterfowl, special status species, and other wildlife habitats (Refer to 1043).	At the discretion of the BLM and its stakeholders, use produced water to develop and enhance waterfowl, special status species, and other wildlife habitats in accordance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Alternative E
(Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACE)

Alternative F
(Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs ACE)

Same as Alternative A.

Same as Alternative B.

Same as Alternative C.

Same as Alternative D.

Same as Alternative E.

Same as Alternative F.

Detailed Alternatives**Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)**

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Fish and Wildlife Resources – Wildlife						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
4084	X	X	BR:5.1 BR:6.1	No similar action.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails with seasonal closures in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Big game crucial winter range (1,324,371 acres) with a seasonal closure November 15 through April 30 (Map 44).	Manage motorized vehicle use in crucial big game winter ranges consistent with other resource objectives.

Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)	Alternative D (Proposed RMP)	Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ActC)	Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs AEC)
4084	X	X	BR:5.1 BR:6.1	No similar action.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails with seasonal closures in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Big game crucial winter range (1,324,371 acres) with a seasonal closure November 15 through April 30 (Map 44).	Manage motorized vehicle use in crucial big game winter ranges consistent with other resource objectives.	Allow temporary closures of designated roads, trails, or geographic areas within big game crucial winter range depending on impacts to big game, weather conditions, and/or human caused disturbance levels.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative D.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Special Status Species						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				GOAL BR:7 WILDLIFE – Manage for the biological integrity and habitat functionality to facilitate the conservation, recovery, and maintenance of populations of fish and wildlife to avoid contributing to the listing of or jeopardizing the continued existence or recovery of special status species and their habitats.		
				Objectives:		
				BR:7.1 Maintain or enhance areas of ecological importance for special status wildlife species.		
				BR:7.2 Conserve and recover special status wildlife species by determining and implementing conservation strategies including restoration opportunities, use restrictions, and management actions.		
				BR:7.3 Manage specific environmental hazards, risks, and impacts in a manner compatible with special status wildlife species health.		
				BR:7.4 Maintain sufficient undisturbed or minimally disturbed habitats to protect special status wildlife species resource values while providing for multiple use management.		
				BR:7.5 Develop and implement HMPs, activity plans, or use other mechanisms to protect high priority special status wildlife species.		
				BR:7.6 Manage special status fish and wildlife species in consideration of the working landscape.		
				GOAL BR:8 PLANTS – Manage for the biological integrity and habitat function to facilitate the conservation, recovery, and maintenance of populations of BLM special status plant species and to avoid contributing to the listing of or jeopardizing the continued existence or recovery of special status species and their habitats.		
				Objectives:		
				BR:8.1 Manage the habitats of special status plants to meet or exceed the <i>Wyoming Standard #4 for Healthy Rangelands</i> .		
				BR:8.2 Protect or enhance habitat for BLM special status plant species.		
				BR:8.3 Maintain sufficient undisturbed or minimally disturbed habitats to protect special status plant species resource values while providing for multiple use management.		
				BR:8.4 Manage specific environmental hazards, risks, and impacts in a manner compatible with BLM special status plant species' health.		
				BR:8.5 Manage BLM special status plant species in consideration of the working landscape.		
				GOAL BR:9 SAGE-GROUSE – Sustain the integrity of the sagebrush biome to provide the amount, continuity, and quality of habitat that is necessary to maintain sustainable populations of greater sage-grouse and other species by achieving the objectives below.		
				Objectives:		
				BR:9.1 Maintain large patches of high quality sagebrush habitats, with emphasis on patches occupied by greater sage-grouse.		
				BR:9.2 Maintain connections between sagebrush habitats, with emphasis on connections between habitats occupied by greater sage-grouse.		
				GOAL BR:10 Identify the amount of habitat that should undergo restoration and/or rehabilitation during the life of the plan and initiate restoration and/or rehabilitation by achieving the objective below.		
				Objective:		
				BR:10.1 Reconnect large patches of sagebrush habitat with emphasis on reconnecting patches occupied by stronghold and isolated populations of greater sage-grouse.		

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Special Status Species						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES						
All Special Status Species						
4085	X	X	BR:7.1-7.4 BR:7.6 BR:8.1-8.5	Postpone or modify projects that may affect special status species to protect these species. Consult with USFWS in such cases, as required by the Endangered Species Act.		
4086	X	X	BR:7.1-7.4 BR:7.6 BR:8.1-8.5	Consult with stakeholders early in the permitting process to design projects in a manner that would minimize or avoid potential adverse effects to special status species.		
4087	X	X	BR:7.2 BR:8.3 BR:9.1 BR:9.2 BR:10.1	Assist authorized agencies in the restoration, reintroduction, augmentation, or re-establishment of threatened, endangered, and other special status species populations and/or habitats.		
4088	X	X	BR:7.1-7.4 BR:7.6 BR:8.1-8.5	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in essential and recovery habitat for threatened or endangered species as identified and designated by USFWS.		
Greater Sage-Grouse						
4089	X	X	BR:9.1	Discourage the use of broad-spectrum insecticides where insect control is required. Target pest control toward key problem areas and schedule applications to be effective in minimum doses in greater sage-grouse brood-rearing areas. Field Offices may implement treatments within sage-grouse habitat utilizing reduced agent-area treatments (RAATS) protocols.		
4090	X	X	BR:9.1	Avoid aerial pesticide spraying in favor of ground applications to minimize drift into non-target areas in greater sage-grouse habitat unless benefits of treatments are likely to outweigh impacts.		
4091	X	X	BR:9.1	Avoid applying pesticides to greater sage-grouse breeding habitat during the nesting and early brood-rearing season (March 15 through June 30) to reduce the loss of food supply to chicks and avoid the chance of secondary poisoning unless benefits of treatments are likely to outweigh impacts.		
4092	X	X	BR:10.1	Maintain seeps, springs, wet meadows, and riparian vegetation in a functional and diverse condition for young greater sage-grouse and other species that depend on forbs and insects associated with these areas. Consider management actions if desirable green vegetation associated with these wet areas is not available, accessible, or cannot be maintained with current livestock, wildlife, or wild horse use, and the impacts are outweighed by the improved habitat quality.		
4093	X	X	BR:10.1	Restore greater sage-grouse brood-rearing habitats in riparian/wetland areas.		

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Special Status Species						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
					Alternative D (Proposed RMP)	Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)
4094	X	X	BR:10.1	Restore lost riparian functioning systems by repairing abnormally incised drainages to raise water tables and increase water storage and brood-rearing habitats within greater sage-grouse habitat.		
4095	X	X	BR:9.1	Manage vegetation diversity and structure to provide suitable habitat and adequate cover for greater sage-grouse during nesting periods, determined by ecological site description.		
4096	X	X	BR:10.1	Maintain sagebrush and understory diversity (relative to ecological site description) in crucial seasonal greater sage-grouse habitats unless such removal is necessary to achieve greater sage-grouse habitat management objectives. For example, thinning small patches of dense sagebrush may increase desirable forbs in early brood-rearing habitat.		
4097	X	X	BR:10.1	Increase the composition and canopy cover of Wyoming big sagebrush, within existing nonnative grass seedings with less than 5 percent sagebrush canopy cover, to greater than or equal to neighboring sagebrush communities or historical levels. (See Shrubland-Salt Desert/Salt Bottom on Map 36; deeper soiled, and gentler sloped portions of the Shrubland-Salt Desert/Salt Bottom, colored in pink, would be those areas where sagebrush restoration efforts could be conducted.)		
4098	X	X	BR:10.1	Investigate opportunities to increase sagebrush in lower precipitation zones.		
4099	X	X	BR:9.1	Plan and construct mining and mineral development activities, to the degree possible given state water rights, to minimize disturbances that would result in alterations to springs and riparian greater sage-grouse habitat. Alternative water sources may be developed to replace natural sources that have been affected or destroyed during these development activities.		
4100	X	X	BR:8.3 BR:8.5	Treat constructed or non-natural water storage impoundments to control mosquito breeding (and the associated spread of West Nile virus), to prevent disease spread to greater sage-grouse on priority basis.		
4101	X	X	BR:9.1	In cooperation with stakeholders, manage to promote the growth and persistence of native shrubs, grasses, and forbs needed by greater sage-grouse for seasonal food and concealment.		
4102	X	X	BR:9.1	In cooperation with stakeholders, design and locate fences so as not to disturb important greater sage-grouse habitat areas. Increase the visibility of existing fences in these areas to reduce hazards to flying greater sage-grouse.		
4103	X	X	BR:9.1	Conduct fire management activities to minimize overall wildfire size and frequency in sagebrush plant communities where greater sage-grouse habitat objectives are at risk. General priorities for habitat protection:		
				Priority # 1 – Protection of greater sage-grouse PHMAs.		
				Priority # 2 – Wyoming big sagebrush communities outside greater sage-grouse PHMAs and habitats recovering from disturbance within or adjacent to greater sage-grouse PHMAs.		
4104	X	X	BR:9.1	Annually maintain FMPs to incorporate updated sagebrush habitat information as well as fire suppression priorities in sagebrush habitats. Incorporate fire management objectives for the management of sagebrush ecosystems into FMPs. Provide fire management objectives for sagebrush ecosystems to initial attack personnel at the beginning of each fire season.		
4105	X	X	BR:10.1	Establish fuels treatment projects at strategic locations to minimize size of wildfires and limit loss of greater sage-grouse habitat.		
4106	X	X	BR:10.1	Reintroduce appropriate fire regimes to limit conifer encroachment into the sagebrush plant communities. Take into account invasive herbaceous species and Fire Regime Group and FRCC (measure of departure from historic fire regime) with treatments. Where possible, achieve a balance between treating areas that have significantly departed from the historic fire regime (Condition Class 3) and areas that are functioning within an appropriate fire regime (Condition Class 1).		
4107	X	X	BR:10.1	Remove conifers encroaching into sagebrush habitats. Prioritize treatments closest to occupied sage-grouse habitats and near occupied leks, and where juniper encroachment is phase 1 or phase 2 as defined in Miller et al. (2005). Refine the location of specific priority areas to be treated by utilizing site-specific analysis and principles like those included in the FIAT report (Chambers et. al. [2014]) and other ongoing modeling efforts to address conifer encroachment.		

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Special Status Species							
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)	Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
							(Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)
4108	X	X	BR:7.1-7.4 BR:9.1 BR:9.2	The BLM will collaborate with appropriate Federal agencies, and the State of Wyoming as contemplated under Governor Executive Order 2013-3; to: 1) develop appropriate conservation objectives; 2) define a framework for evaluating situations where greater sage-grouse conservation objectives are not being achieved on federal land, to determine if a causal relationship exists between improper grazing (by wildlife or wild horses or livestock) and greater sage-grouse conservation objectives; and 3) identify appropriate site-specific actions to achieve greater sage-grouse conservation objectives within the framework.			Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs ACEC)
Raptors							
4109	X	X	BR:7.2 BR:7.6	Implement, where appropriate, conservation measures, terms and conditions, and appropriate BMPs and reasonable and prudent measures within existing state programmatic biological opinions for the bald eagle.			
4110	X	X	BR:6.1 BR:10.1	Work with proponents to design powerlines following USFWS guidelines to protect raptors from electrocution and to reduce predation on other special status species. Work with ROW holders to retrofit existing lines.			
Migratory Birds							
4111	X	X	BR:7.1-7.4 BR:10 BR:11.1	Avoid taking migratory birds through timing limitations, project design modifications, pre-disturbance surveys and buffers. Direct impacts to migratory bird species or their nests/eggs/young can often be avoided by requiring pre-disturbance clearance surveys or using seasonal timing windows and nesting buffers to avoid disturbance during occupancy periods and minimizing habitat loss. USFWS identifies migratory bird nesting periods between February 1 and August 31 for species protected by MBTA. Seasonal timing limitations should be adjusted to shorter periods to match the habitat, species and condition of the project site. Migratory bird mortalities can also be avoided by including or requiring designs that exclude migratory birds from facilities that are known to pose a preventable mortality risk and marking structures that have known collision risks.			
Mammals							
4112	X	X	BR:7.1-7.4	Implement conservation measures, terms and conditions, and appropriate BMPs and reasonable and prudent measures within existing state programmatic biological opinions for the Canada lynx, gray wolf, and black-footed ferret.			
4113	X	X	BR:7.1-7.4	Control surface-disturbing activities to avoid, minimize and/or compensate adverse effects on about 1,300 BLM-administered surface acres of active prairie dog colonies within the Meeteetse complex. This requirement will remain in effect until completion of a site-specific activity plan being prepared to manage ferrets in this area. The restriction will then be reassessed for its continued appropriateness. This restriction applies to such things as mineral leasing, geophysical exploration (except casual use), and construction activities.			
4114	X	X	BR:7.1-7.4	Implement conservation measures, terms and conditions, BMPs, and reasonable and prudent measures within the existing state programmatic biological opinion for the grizzly bear and in accordance with the Interagency Grizzly Bear Conservation Strategy signed by the BLM in 2006.			
Fish							
4115	X	X	BR:7.1-7.6	Give priority to special status species fish over other fish species in planning and management.			
Plants							
4116	X	X	BR:8.2 BR:8.3 BR:8.5	Implement conservation measures, terms and conditions, and appropriate BMPs and reasonable and prudent measures within existing state programmatic biological opinions for the Ute ladies'-tresses.			

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Special Status Species								
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)		
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE								
4117	X	X	BR:7.2 BR:9.1	Apply a CSU stipulation for discretionary actions to prohibit surface-disturbing and disruptive activities within ¼ mile of occupied greater sage-grouse leks (21,352 acres) (Map 39).	<p>Prohibit surface-disturbing and disruptive activities and apply a NSO restriction within a 0.6-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied greater sage-grouse leks (117,398 acres) (Map 40). For discretionary actions, manage areas within a 0.6-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied greater sage-grouse leks (117,398 acres) as ROW exclusion areas.</p> <p>Apply a CSU stipulation for all greater sage-grouse seasonal habitats (nesting and early brood-rearing habitat and winter concentration areas) to allow only 1 to 15 acres of well location, or 15 acres of habitat removal, per 640-acre section. The one location and cumulative disturbance value will not exceed 5 percent of sagebrush habitat within those same 640 acres.</p> <p>Key Habitat Areas (1,232,583 acres) are closed to mineral leasing and are managed as ROW avoidance areas.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p> <p>Inside PHMAS Prohibit surface-disturbing and disruptive activities and apply a NSO restriction on or within a 0.6-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied sage-grouse leks. The authorized officer may grant an exception if an environmental record of review determines that the action, as proposed or conditioned, would not impair the function or utility of the site for the current or subsequent seasonal habitat, life-history, or behavioral needs of greater sage-grouse (Map 42).</p> <p>Leases should be a minimum of 640 contiguous acres of federal mineral estate. Smaller parcels may be leased only when 640 contiguous acres of federal mineral estate is not available and leasing is necessary to remain in compliance with laws, regulations and policy; for example, to protect the federal mineral estate from drainage or to commit the federal mineral estate to unit or</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B.</p> <p>Same as Alternative D.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)</p> <p>Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAS ACEC)</p>

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Special Status Species						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
						<p>Communityization agreements. Preliminary parcels reviewed for possible offering in a lease sale should comply with this minimum lease size.</p> <p>Expressions of interest that are less than this minimum lease size would be evaluated and modified by the BLM to meet the minimum lease size, where possible, prior to review for possible offering in a lease sale.</p> <p>The BLM's goal inside sage-grouse PHMAS is to maintain or enhance seasonal habitats, thereby providing support for sage-grouse population management objectives of the State of Wyoming.</p> <p>Outside PHMAS</p> <p>Prohibits surface-disturbing and disruptive activities and apply a NSO restriction within a $\frac{1}{4}$-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied sage-grouse leks (Map 42).</p> <p>Outside sage-grouse PHMAS, the BLM's goal is to sustain important habitats that support core populations and to maintain lek persistence over the long term in sufficient proportions of the sage-grouse population to facilitate</p>

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Special Status Species						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
						movement and genetic transfer between core populations, including those found in adjacent states.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Special Status Species							
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)	
4118	X	X	BR:7.2 BR:9.1	Apply a TLS to avoid surface-disturbing and disruptive activities in greater sage-grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitats within 2 mile radius of the perimeter of the occupied greater sage-grouse leks (834,543 acres), or in identified nesting and early brood-rearing habitat outside the 3-mile lek buffer (310,749 acres), from February 1 to July 31 (Map 40). Identified greater sage-grouse nesting and brood-rearing habitat outside the 2 mile buffer (626,564 acres) from March 15 to July 15 (CYFO seasonal restrictions are from Feb 1 to July 31) (Map 39).	Apply a TLS to avoid surface-disturbing and disruptive activities in greater sage-grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitat within a 3-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied greater sage-grouse leks (834,543 acres), or in identified nesting and early brood-rearing habitat outside the 3-mile lek buffer (626,564 acres) from March 15 to July 15 (Map 41). Exempt Oil and Gas Management Areas (Map 24) and ROW corridors from discretionary wildlife seasonal stipulations.	Apply a TLS to avoid surface-disturbing and disruptive activities in greater sage-grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitat within a 2-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied sage-grouse leks from March 15 to June 30 (1,122,249). Inside PHMAS Apply a TLS to restrict disruptive activity within a 0.6-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied sage-grouse leks from March 15 to June 30 (1,122,249).	Same as Alternative B. Inside PHMAS Apply a TLS to restrict disruptive activity within a 0.6-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied sage-grouse leks from March 15 to June 30 (1,122,249). Outside PHMAS Apply a TLS to restrict disruptive activity within a $\frac{1}{4}$ mile radius of the perimeter of occupied sage-grouse leks from March 15 to June 30 (4,273). Inside PHMAS Apply a TLS to prohibit or restrict surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities in sage-grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitat within PHMAS, regardless of distance from the lek from March 15 to June 30 (1,526,277). Outside PHMAS Apply a TLS to prohibit or restrict surface-disturbing and/or disruptive activities in sage-grouse nesting and early brood-rearing habitat within a 2-mile radius of the perimeter of occupied sage-grouse leks from March 15 to June 30.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Special Status Species						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
4119	X	X	BR:7.2 BR:9.1	Apply a TLS to avoid surface-disturbing and disruptive activities within greater sage-grouse winter concentration areas (172,779 acres) from November 15 to March 14.	Avoid surface-disturbing and disruptive activities and apply a NSO restriction within greater sage-grouse winter concentration areas (172,779 acres) from November 15 to March 14.	Same as Alternative A, except exempt Oil and Gas Management Areas (Map 24) and ROW corridors from discretionary wildlife seasonal stipulations.
4120	X	X	BR:7.2 BR:9.1	No similar action.		Same as Alternative A.

Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)	Alternative D (Proposed RMP)	Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)	Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs ACEC)
4119	X	X	BR:7.2 BR:9.1	Apply a TLS to avoid surface-disturbing and disruptive activities within greater sage-grouse winter concentration areas (172,779 acres) from November 15 to March 14.	Avoid surface-disturbing and disruptive activities and apply a NSO restriction within greater sage-grouse winter concentration areas (172,779 acres) from November 15 to March 14.	Same as Alternative A, except exempt Oil and Gas Management Areas (Map 24) and ROW corridors from discretionary wildlife seasonal stipulations.	Apply a TLS to prohibit or restrict surface-disturbing and disruptive activities within greater sage-grouse winter concentration areas (172,809 acres) from December 1 to March 14.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative D.

Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)	Alternative D (Proposed RMP)	Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)	Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs ACEC)
4120	X	X	BR:7.2 BR:9.1	No similar action.		Same as Alternative A.	Density of Disturbances: In greater sage-grouse PHMAs, the density of disturbance of energy or mining facilities would be limited to an average of one site per square mile (640 acres) within the DDCT, subject to valid existing rights. The one location and cumulative value of existing disturbances would not exceed 5 percent of habitat. Utilize the greater sage-grouse density disturbance calculation tool described in Appendix Y. Inside PHMA, all suitable habitat disturbed (any program area) will not exceed 5 percent within the DDCT area using the DDCT process. Consolidate anthropogenic features from development and transmission on the landscape. Allow on a case-by-case basis high profile structures within greater sage-grouse nesting habitat.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative D.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Special Status Species						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
						<p>Manage PHMAs (1,232.583 acres) as ROW avoidance areas.</p> <p>Work with proponents to design ROW applications to protect greater sage-grouse. Buried utilities constructed in designated utility corridors are not subject to DDCT analysis.</p> <p>Sagebrush Treatment:</p> <p>Sagebrush eradication is considered disturbance and will contribute to the 5 percent disturbance factor.</p> <p>In stands with less than 15 percent cover, treatment should be designed to maintain or improve sagebrush habitat.</p> <p>Sagebrush treatments that maintain sagebrush canopy cover at or above 15 percent total canopy cover within the treated acres will not be considered disturbance.</p> <p>Treatments that reduce sagebrush canopy cover below 15 percent will be allowed if all such treated areas make up less than 20% of the suitable sagebrush habitat within the DDCT, and any point within the treated area is within 60 meters of sagebrush habitat with 5 percent or greater canopy cover. Treatments</p>

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Special Status Species						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
						<p>to enhance sagebrush/grassland will be evaluated based upon the existing habitat quality and the functional level post-treatment.</p> <p>Wildfire burns will be treated as disturbed if sagebrush is reduced below 5 percent unless there is an implementation plan outlining restoration efforts and 3 years of data showing a trend back to suitable habitat.</p> <p>Although seasonal restrictions on activities may apply, vegetation treatments that do not make the habitat unsuitable for greater sage-grouse are not considered in the density calculation.</p>
						<p>Noise levels at the perimeter of the lek should not exceed 10 dBA above ambient noise. The BLM would work with proponents to limit project-related noise where it would be expected to reduce functionality of habitats that support PHMA area populations.</p> <p>The BLM would evaluate the potential for limitation of new noise sources on a case-by-case basis as</p>
4121	X	X	BR:7.2 BR:9.1	No requirements to locate facilities or reduce noise levels of equipment to minimize the impacts of continuous noise on greater sage-grouse or other species relying on aural cues for successful breeding currently exist.	Limit new noise levels to 10 dBA above ambient noise measured at the perimeter of a lek from 6 PM to 8 AM during initiation of breeding (March 1 to May 15). Actual thresholds may be adjusted upon evaluation and acceptance of ongoing research.	<p>Same as Alternative B.</p> <p>Same as Alternative D.</p>

Detailed Alternatives**Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)**

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Special Status Species						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
						<p>The BLM's near-term goal would be to limit noise sources that would be expected to negatively impact PHMA sage-grouse populations and to continue to support the establishment of ambient baseline noise levels for occupied PHMA leks. As additional research and information emerges, specific new limitations appropriate to the type of projects being considered would be evaluated and appropriate limitations would be implemented where necessary to minimize potential for noise impacts on sage-grouse PHMA population behavioral cycles. As new research is completed, new specific limitations would be coordinated with the WGFD and partners.</p>

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Special Status Species						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
4122	X	X	BR:7.1-7.4 BR:9.1 BR:9.2	No similar action.	<p>Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in greater sage-grouse Key Habitat Areas with a seasonal closure from February 1 to July 31.</p> <p>Manage new road construction in and adjacent to greater sage-grouse habitat consistent with applicable restrictions on surface-disturbing and disruptive activities.</p>	<p>Allow motorized vehicle use in greater sage-grouse PHMAs consistent with other resource objectives.</p> <p>Manage new road construction in and adjacent to greater sage-grouse habitat consistent with applicable restrictions on surface-disturbing and disruptive activities.</p>
4123	X	X	BR:6.1	Apply a TLS to prohibit any activity or surface-disturbing activity within a $\frac{1}{2}$ mile radius of any active raptor nest sites (592,529 acres) from February 1 through July 31 (Map 39).	<p>To protect nesting raptors, apply a TLS to prohibit surface-disturbing and disruptive activities within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 mile of active raptor nests (542,759 acres) during specific species nesting period, or until young birds have fledged (Map 40). See Appendix K for species nesting periods. • 2 miles of active ferruginous hawk nests (47,258 acres) from March 1 to July 31, or until young birds have fledged (Map 40). <p>To protect the actual nest</p>	<p>Same as Alternative C, except locate new roads that will have relatively high levels of activity (i.e., accessing multiple wells, housing developments, etc.) greater than 1.9 miles from the perimeter of occupied sage-grouse leks within PHMAs.</p> <p>Locate other new roads greater than 0.6 miles from the perimeter of occupied sage-grouse leks within PHMAs.</p> <p>Construct roads to minimum design standards needed for production activities.</p> <p>To protect nesting raptors, apply a TLS on 126,241 acres to prohibit surface-disturbing and disruptive activities within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of active raptor nests and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of active golden eagle, bald eagle, northern goshawk, merlin, and prairie and peregrine falcon nests during specific species nesting period or until young birds have fledged (Map 42). See Appendix K for species nesting periods. • 1 mile of active

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Special Status Species						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				site, apply a year-round CSU stipulation within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of all raptor nests (47,258 acres) (Map 40). Actual distances and dates will vary based on topography, species, season of use, and other pertinent factors.	ferruginous hawk nests from March 1 to July 31 or until young birds have fledged (Map 42). To protect the actual nest site, apply a year-round CSU stipulation within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of all raptor nests (47,651 acres) (Map 42). Actual distances and dates will vary based on topography, species, season of use, and other pertinent factors.	ferruginous hawk nests from March 1 to July 31 or until young birds have fledged (Map 42). To protect the actual nest site, apply a year-round CSU stipulation within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of all raptor nests (47,651 acres) (Map 42). Actual distances and dates will vary based on topography, species, season of use, and other pertinent factors.
Migratory Birds						
4124	X	X	BR:7.1 BR:7.2	Implement conservation measures, terms and conditions, and appropriate BMPs and reasonable and prudent measures within existing state programmatic biological opinions for the mountain plover.	Same as Alternative A, plus manage a portion of the Chapman Bench area (23,326 acres) as the Chapman Bench ACEC for the retention, enhancement, and success of the greater sage-grouse, mountain plover, and long-billed curlew. See ACECs for management of the Chapman Bench ACEC.	<p>Apply a TLS to protect mountain plover identified breeding and nesting habitat from surface-disturbing activities from April 10 through July 10.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • manage for the retention and success of the mountain plover, long-billed curlew, and other sensitive species habitat • apply a NSO restriction (Map 37) open to geophysical exploration prohibit mineral materials disposal pursue a withdrawal from appropriation under the mining laws renewable energy and ROW avoidance area allow surface-

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Special Status Species							
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)	Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
							disturbing activities consistent with other resource objectives Allow and stipulate, where feasible, vegetative treatments, invasive and nonnative pest species control, fuels management, and maintenance of existing facilities.
Mammals							
4125	X	X	BR:7.1-7.4	No similar action.	If the USFWS and WGFD determine that large prairie dog colonies and/or complexes within the Planning Area are suitable for black-footed ferret reintroduction, apply a NSO restriction on these areas.	No similar action.	Same as Alternative B.
4126	X	X	BR:7.1-7.4	Implement, where appropriate, conservation measures, Biological Evaluations, and inter-agency coordination memorandums for all prairie dogs.	Same as Alternative A, plus prohibit prairie dog poisoning.	In the Sage Creek Town area only, implement conservation measures, terms and conditions, BMPs and reasonable and prudent measures for white- and black-tailed prairie dog colonies. Allow surface-disturbing and disruptive activities in all prairie dog colonies.	Same as Alternative A, plus prohibit prairie dog poisoning.
4127	X		BR:10.2 BR:10.5	Implement conservation measures outlined in the Biological Evaluation for black-tailed prairie dogs in the Sage Creek Prairie Dog Town (182 acres) (BLM 2005g).	Same as Alternative A, but also apply a NSO restriction on the Sage Creek Prairie Dog Town (182 acres) (Map 40).	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Special Status Species						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
4128	X	BR:10.2 BR:10.5	Manage the Sage Creek Prairie Dog Town (182 acres) as a ROW avoidance area.	Manage the Sage Creek Prairie Dog Town (182 acres) as a ROW Exclusion area.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
Amphibians and Reptiles						
4129	X	X	BR:7.1-7.4	Stipulate and/or implement the appropriate management guidelines identified in <i>Habitat Management Guidelines for Amphibians and Reptiles of the Northwestern U.S. and Canada, PARC Technical Publication HMG-4</i> (Pilliod and Wind 2008), and similar future guidance for activities that have the potential to impact known or potential amphibian/reptile habitat.	Same as Alternative A.	On a case-by-case basis, stipulate and/or implement the appropriate management guidelines identified in <i>Habitat Management Guidelines for Amphibians and Reptiles of the Northwestern U.S. and Canada, PARC Technical Publication HMG-4</i> (Pilliod and Wind 2008), and similar future guidance for activities that have the potential to impact known or potential amphibian/reptile habitat.
4130	X	X	BR:7.1-7.4	When cleaning or removing sediment from wet reservoirs, where feasible, retain riparian vegetation such as cottonwoods, willows, cattails, sedges, and rushes for wildlife habitat values.	Same as Alternative A, plus avoid reservoir work during amphibian mating and metamorphosis periods (April – July).	Same as Alternative A.
						Same as Alternative B.
						Same as Alternative C.
						Same as Alternative B.
						Same as Alternative A.
						Same as Alternative B.
						Same as Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC) PHIMAs ACEC)
						Same as Alternative A.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Special Status Species						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
Fish						
4131	X	X	BR:7.3	Restore stream segments for fisheries habitat on a case-by-case basis.	Restore or reclaim important fisheries habitat through upland management and hydrologic function enhancement actions on at least 3 miles of lotic stream segments.	Same as Alternative A, except restore or improve important stream segments only for special status species habitat.
4132	X	X	BR:7.1-7.3 BR:7.6	Construct barriers to prevent nonnative fish from colonizing habitat occupied by native fish species on a case-by-case basis.	Construct barriers to prevent nonnative fish from colonizing habitat occupied by native fish species. Remove barriers or construct fish passageways to enable native fish to occupy all suitable habitats.	Do not construct or remove barriers to prevent nonnative fish from colonizing habitat that would impede or constrain other resource uses.
4133	X	X	BR:7.3 BR:7.6	Prohibit surface-disturbing activities within 500 feet of surface water and/or riparian habitat, including those supporting special status fish species, except when such activities are necessary and when their impacts can be mitigated or avoided.	Prohibit surface-disturbing and disruptive activities within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of any waters containing special status fish species, except when such activities are necessary and when their impacts can be mitigated or avoided.	Same as Alternative A. Prohibit surface-disturbing activities within 500 feet and avoid surface-disturbing activities within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of perennial surface water and riparian/wetland areas except when their impacts can be mitigated to an acceptable level.
4134	X	X	BR:7.1-7.3 BR:7.6	Consider working with WGFD and other stakeholders to restore Yellowstone cutthroat trout to its historically occupied watersheds on a case-by-case basis.	Pursue coordination with WGFD and other stakeholders in restoring Yellowstone cutthroat trout to its historically occupied watersheds wherever feasible.	Same as Alternative A. Same as Alternative B.
						Same as Alternative B. Same as Alternative D.
						Same as Alternative B.
						Same as Alternative D.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Special Status Species										
	Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)	Alternative D (Proposed RMP)	Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)	Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAS ACEC)
4135	X	X	BR:7.1-7.3 BR:7.6	Work with WGF/D and other stakeholders to introduce special status fish species to waters outside of their historic range on a case-by-case basis.	If environmentally feasible, pursue coordination with WGF/D and other stakeholders to introduce special status fish species to waters outside of their historic range.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative A.	
Plants										
4136	X	X	BR:8.1-8.3 BR:8.5	Review all range improvement projects for potential impacts to BLM special status plant species. Implement avoidance and mitigation measures on a case-by-case basis.	Prohibit range improvement projects such as troughs, reservoirs, fences, and other surface-disturbing activities within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of known BLM special status plant species, unless the improvement is determined to be beneficial to the plant species.	Prohibit range improvement projects such as troughs, reservoirs, fences, and other surface-disturbing activities within 300 feet of BLM special status plant species, unless the improvement is determined to be beneficial to the plant species. Exceptions may be allowed by the authorized officer.	Avoid range improvement projects that may concentrate herbivory within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of BLM special status plant species populations unless the project is determined to be beneficial or neutral to the plant species.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative D.	
4137	X	X	BR:8.1-8.3 BR:8.5	No similar management action.	Prohibit forage supplements within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of BLM special status species plant populations.	On a case-by-case basis, allow placement of forage supplements after considering the location of BLM special status plant species.	Same as Alternative C.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative C.	
4138	X	X	BR:8.1-8.3 BR:8.5	Review all action and use authorizations on split-estate lands for potential impacts to BLM special status plant species. Implement avoidance and mitigation measures on a case-by-case basis.	Require surveys for BLM special status species plant species prior to approving any project or activity on federal lands or on split-estate lands in potential habitats for these species that may affect that species. If populations are identified, apply appropriate mitigation.	Require surveys for BLM special status species plant species prior to approving any project or activity on federal lands; however, do not require surveys for BLM special status plant species before approving any project or activity on split-estate lands, except for federally listed, proposed, and candidate	Review all federal actions and authorizations for potential impacts to BLM special status plant species. Implement avoidance, mitigation or compensation measures in coordination with surface owners on split-estate.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative D.	

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Special Status Species						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
4139	X	X	BR:8.2-8.4	Review all herbicide treatments for potential impacts on BLM special status species plants. Implement avoidance and mitigation measures on a case-by-case basis.	Prohibit aerial applications of herbicides within 1 mile of BLM special status plant species. Allow vehicle and hand application of herbicides within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of special status plant species.	species. If populations are identified, apply appropriate mitigation.
4140	X	X	BR:8.5	Review fire suppression effects on BLM special status plant species and implement mitigation measures on a case-by-case basis.	Same as Alternative A, except do not allow the use of fire suppression or chemicals, including foaming agents and surfactants, within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of known BLM special status plant species populations.	Same as Alternative A.
					Avoid aerial applications of herbicides within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of BLM special status plant species. Allow vehicle and hand application of herbicides on a case-by-case basis.	Avoid aerial applications of herbicides within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of BLM special status plant species. Allow vehicle and hand application of herbicides.
						Same as Alternative B.
						Same as Alternative D.
						Same as Alternative E.
						Same as Alternative F.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Wild Horses							
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)	
GOAL BR:11 Manage and maintain healthy wild horses and herds inside HMAs in a thriving natural ecological balance within the productive capacity of their habitat while preserving multiple use relationships.							
Objectives:							
	BR:11.1			Adjust and maintain wild horse numbers and HMAs to comply with federal policies.			
	BR:11.2			Maintain or enhance herd viability and genetic integrity.			
	BR:11.3			Provide opportunities for wild horse interpretation, scientific research, and viewing.			
	BR:11.4			Manage wild horses to comply with local planning documents to the greatest extent practicable.			
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES							
4141	X	X	BR:11.1	The size of the Fifteenmile HMA (Map 45) will remain at 70,527 acres of BLM-administered land, out of the original 261,868 acres of BLM-administered land within the Fifteenmile HA.			
4142	X	X	BR:11.1	The Sand Draw HA is 15,302 acres (total acres in Planning Area, including BLM-administered, BOR, state, and private lands). The Zimmerman Springs HA is 12,277 acres (total acres in Planning Area, including BLM-administered, BOR, state, and private lands). The Alkali Spring Creek HA is 5,183 acres (total acres in Planning Area, including BLM-administered, BOR, state, and private lands). The Foster Gulch HA is 141,300 acres (total acres in Planning Area, including BLM-administered, BOR, state, and private lands). The North Shoshone HA is 22,626 acres (total acres in Planning Area, including BLM-administered, BOR, state, and private lands). These HAs (Map 45) will not be managed for wild horses.			
4143	X	X	BR:11.1	Manage the Fifteenmile HMA for an initial appropriate management level of 70 to 160 wild horses, not counting foals, in an attempt to maintain a population of 100 adult wild horses adjusted as necessary based upon monitoring.			
4144	X	X	BR:11.1	Manage the McCullough Peaks HMA for an initial appropriate management level of 70 to 140 wild horses, not counting foals, in an attempt to maintain a population of 100 adult wild horses adjusted as necessary based upon monitoring.			
4145	X	X	BR:11.1	Base future adjustments to the appropriate management level on monitoring information and multiple use considerations through development of and/or revisions to HMA Plans. Update HMA plans to include greater sage-grouse objectives.			
4146	X	X	BR:11.1	Manage BLM-administered land within the Fifteenmile and McCullough Peaks HMAs to maintain or enhance conformance with the <i>Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands</i> .			
4147	X	X	BR:11.2	Employ selective removal criteria, in accordance with current national policies, during periodic gathers to increase desired genetic characteristics and avoid genetic depression.			
4148	X	X	BR:11.1	Consider the use of natural and artificial population control measures as needed to maintain the wild horse populations within the established appropriate management level ranges.			
4149	X	X	BR:11.1	Conduct all activities in compliance with relevant court orders and agreements as applicable to the management situation.			

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Wild Horses						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
4150	X		BR:11.3	Provide opportunity for the public to view wild horses in the McCullough Peaks HMA.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A, except actively promote opportunities for public viewing, education, and interpretation of wild horses within the McCullough Peaks HMA.
4151	X	BR:11.3		Provide opportunity for the public to view wild horses in the Fifteenmile HMA.	Do not actively promote the Fifteenmile HMA to the public and retain the current remote natural characteristics.	Same as Alternative A.
4152	X	X	BR:11.1	Within the Fifteenmile HMA, subject surface-disturbing and disruptive activities (public land uses) associated with wild horse management to appropriate mitigation developed through use of the mitigation guidelines.	Apply seasonal restrictions from February 1 to July 31 to prevent foal abandonment or jeopardy of wild horse health and welfare, as appropriate, to surface-disturbing and disruptive activities in the McCullough Peaks and Fifteenmile HMAs.	Do not apply seasonal restrictions.
4153	X	X	BR:11.3	Consider organized special recreation permit-related base camps, events, or activities in the McCullough Peaks and Fifteenmile HMAs on a case-by-case basis.	Prohibit organized special recreation permits using domestic horses in the McCullough Peaks and Fifteenmile HMAs.	Allow organized special recreation permits using base camps, events, or activities with horses.
4154	X		BR:11.1	Maintain the McCullough Peaks HMA at about 103,863 acres, out of the original 177,863 acres within the McCullough Peaks HA (Map 45).	Adjust the western boundary of the McCullough Peaks HMA (113,938 acres) to resolve resource conflicts (Map 45). Expansion of the HMA would not be the basis for a change to the appropriate management	Same as Alternative A. Adjust the western boundary of the McCullough Peaks HMA (113,714 acres) to resolve resource conflicts (Map 45). Expansion of the HMA would not be the basis for a change to livestock AUMs or the appropriate

Detailed Alternatives**Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)**

4000 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES (BR) – Wild Horses						
Record #	C ¹	V ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				level, and any future changes to the appropriate management level would be done through the HMAP.		management level, and any future changes to these numbers would be done through the HMAP or the grazing permit renewal process.
4155	X	X	BR:11.1	Do not allow wild horse gathers to occur between March 1 and June 30.	Avoid wild horse gathers 6-weeks before or 6-weeks after peak foaling season. To the extent possible, conduct wild horse gathers in the fall, after peak foaling has occurred and when temperatures are lower to reduce stress on the animals.	Same as Alternative A.
4156	X		BR:11.2	Evaluate fences in the McCullough Peaks HMA on a case-by-case basis.	Evaluate and remove, on a case-by-basis, interior fences in the McCullough Peaks HMA to provide for wild horse movement and improved retention of genetic viability.	Same as Alternative A.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

5000 HERITAGE AND VISUAL RESOURCES (HR) – Cultural Resources						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				GOAL HR:1	Identify, preserve, and protect cultural resources and ensure that they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations (FLPMA, Section 103(c), 201(a) and (e); National Historic Preservation Act, Section 110(a); Archeological Resources Protection Act, Section 14(a)).	
				Objectives:		
				HR:1.1 Manage each type of cultural resource according to their proper use allocation, and monitor those resources' condition and use.		
				HR:1.2 Reduce imminent threats to cultural resources from natural or human-caused deterioration.		
				HR:1.3 Develop and maintain working relationships with those tribes having an interest in the area through regular meetings. Consult with tribal governments regarding proposed land uses having the potential to impact cultural resources identified as having tribal interests or concerns. Determine the types of resources of concern to various tribes, and take tribal views into consideration when making land use allocations or decisions.		
				HR:1.4 Develop activity plans for special areas or cultural resources identified as high risk for adverse impacts.		
				GOAL HR:2	Promote stewardship, conservation, and appreciation of cultural resources.	
				Objectives:		
				HR:2.1 Maintain and enhance programs that provide opportunities for scientific research of cultural resources.		
				HR:2.2 Provide opportunities for public education, interpretation, and scientific research of cultural resources. Continue Project Archeology teaching courses, and continue to conduct public presentations for schools, community organizations, and the public. Provide for appropriate interpretation of sites of high public interest. Provide selected cultural resources for scientific research.		
				HR:2.3 Coordinate with other BLM programs preplanning measures to prevent potential conflicts before they occur.		
				GOAL HR:3	Protect important cultural resources while minimizing economic and social impacts to private landowners and local communities.	
				Objectives:		
				HR:3.1 Consult and coordinate with affected landowners and local communities when devising protection measures for cultural resources.		
				HR:3.2 Consult and coordinate with affected landowners and local communities when devising recreational use plans for cultural resources.		
				HR:3.3 Preserve and stabilize important cultural resources, especially resources that face immediate threat or are in high public use areas.		
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES						
5001	X	X	HR:1.2	Investigate all alleged violations of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act.		
5002	X	X	HR:1.1	Categorize all cultural properties according to six use allocations: scientific use, conservation use, public use, traditional use, experimental use, and discharged from public use. Develop programmatic guidance for the first five categories of use that promote appropriate educational, recreational, and scientific interpretive use. Through the NEPA process, develop appropriate management prescriptions and monitoring plans to protect the identified use.		
5003	X	X	HR:1.4	Complete emergency site stabilization and long-term protection projects on important sites as appropriate, including the Hanson Site and several rock art occurrences.		
5004	X	X	HR:1.3	Continue existing relationships and develop new relationships with Native American tribes, in order to identify sites, areas, and resources important to them. Document and keep confidential sites, areas, and resources which are worthy of protection. Incorporate the information obtained from the tribes into the planning system, to identify conflicts in the earliest stages, and to avoid conflicts whenever possible. Manage identified areas of tribal importance to minimize disturbance to them and to ensure continued access.		
5005	X	X	HR:1.3	Ensure that areas of importance to Native American Tribes are not transferred from federal ownership, physically modified, or affected by management actions in ways that restrict or deny access and/or use.		

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

5000 HERITAGE AND VISUAL RESOURCES (HR) – Cultural Resources							
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)	Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
							(Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACFC)
5006	X	X	HR:1.1-1.4 HR:2.3	Appropriately protect sites listed on the NRHP. Protect and manage sites that are eligible for or listed on the NRHP. Manage sites allocated for conservation, traditional use, or public use to avoid adverse effects; manage sites allocated for scientific or experimental use for their research potential. Protect and manage National Historic Landmarks through management of non-compatible uses.			Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACFC)
5007	X	X	HR:1.4	Identify areas of significant prehistoric cultural resources, which are at high risk from development, as data becomes available.			Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs ACFC)
5008	X	X	HR:1.1 HR:2.3	Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended, the National Programmatic Agreement (BLM, ACHP, and National Conference of SHPO 2012), and the State Protocol (BLM and Wyoming SHPO 2014), case-by-case reviews for specific undertakings require analysis and assessments of effects. Such analysis and assessment may reveal the need for additional restrictions beyond those specifically described in this RMP.			
5009	X	X	HR:1.1-1.4 HR:2.1-2.3 HR:3.1-3.3	In cooperation with local government and stakeholders, consider the economic and social impacts of protecting cultural resources.			
5010	X	X	HR:3.1	Coordinate with affected landowners, local communities, and agencies on any decisions that could affect their use or operations. Consistent with cultural resource protection goals and objectives, devise management actions that complement the objectives of private landowners or local communities.			
5011	X	X	HR:1.3	Inventory potentially sensitive cultural places identified during Native American consultation independent of specific land-use actions. Apply tools (such as site avoidance and SCZ) to protect sensitive cultural sites, as necessary.			
5012	X	X	HR:1.4 HR:2.1-2.3 HR:3.1-3.3	Prepare Activity Plans for important sites as appropriate, including the Hanson Site and several rock art occurrences, Ten Sleep Raid, Minick Sheep Camp Raid, historic trails including the Bridger Trail, and the Fort Washakie to Red Lodge stage route.			
5013	X	X	HR:1.1-1.4 HR:2.3	Manage the Legend Rock Petroglyph Site for public education in cooperation with the State of Wyoming. Work to acquire the private land portions of the Legend Rock Petroglyph Site from willing landowners, preferably through an exchange.			
5014	X	X	HR:3.3	Apply a NSO restriction on the Legend Rock Petroglyph Site.			
5015	X	X	HR:1.1-1.4 HR:2.1-2.3 HR:3.1-3.3	Surface-disturbing activities associated with the construction and use of sites and facilities are subject to appropriate mitigation developed through implementation of the National Programmatic Agreement (BLM, ACHP, and National Conference of SHPO 2012) and the State Protocol (BLM and Wyoming SHPO 2014).			
5016	X	X	HR:1.2	For the protection of important cultural sites, pursue a withdrawal from appropriation under the mining laws on a case-by-case basis.			

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

5000 HERITAGE AND VISUAL RESOURCES (HR) – Cultural Resources						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
5017	X	X	HR:2.2	Develop additional cultural resource interpretive sites making use of scenic overlooks, signs, and walking trails. Sites could include congressionally designated Nez Perce (Neeme-poo), and historic trails such as the Thermopolis to Meeteetse Trail, the Fort Washakie to Red Lodge Trail, the Mexican Pass Trail, and the Bridger Trail.		
5018	X	X	HR:1.2	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in areas containing important cultural and paleontological resources.		
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
5019	X		HR:1.1-1.4 HR:2.3	Gain additional information on the remaining intact deposits of the Hanson Prehistoric Occupation to facilitate nomination of the site as a National Historic Landmark. Upon Landmark designation, if feasible, nominate the site to the World Heritage List.	Same as Alternative A, except identify and test other deposits of similar age in the drainage to determine the full extent of the Folsom age deposits.	Same as Alternative A, except identify and test other deposits of similar age in the drainage to determine the full extent of the Folsom age deposits and do not seek to nominate the Hanson Prehistoric Occupation site to the World Heritage List.
5020	X	X	HR:1.1-1.4 HR:2.3	Manage rock art, as well as other prehistoric and historic archeological sites and districts associated with specific time periods or cultures, for scientific, public, and socio-cultural use. Manage general areas for research, with emphasis on interpreting former ecosystems. Preserve specific sites or areas for future study and use.	Same as Alternative A, except avoid surface-disturbing activities (see Glossary) and ROW authorizations in view within 5 miles of important cultural sites where integrity of setting is a contributing element of NRHP significance, except within designated utility corridors.	Same as Alternative A, except avoid surface-disturbing activities (see Glossary) and ROW authorizations in view within 1/4 mile of important cultural sites where integrity of setting is a contributing element of NRHP significance, except within designated utility corridors.
5021	X	X	HR:1.2	Pursue leasable mineral restrictions for the protection of cultural sites on a case-by-case basis.	Apply a NSO restriction for leasable minerals within 3 miles and a CSU stipulation in view within 5 miles of important cultural sites.	Apply a NSO restriction for leasable minerals within ½ mile and a CSU stipulation within 1 mile of important cultural sites (see Glossary up to 3 miles or the visual
					Protect the foreground of important cultural sites (see Glossary for definitions of these terms) up to 3 miles or the visual	Same as Alternative B.
						Same as Alternative D.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

5000 HERITAGE AND VISUAL RESOURCES (HR) – Cultural Resources						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				(see Glossary and Appendix L).	and Appendix L).	Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
5022	X	X	HR:1.2	Pursue restrictions on mineral materials disposal for the protection of important cultural sites on a case-by-case basis.	Prohibit mineral materials disposal within 3 miles, or in view within 5 miles of important cultural sites.	horizon whichever is closer (the SCZ) where setting is an important aspect of the integrity for the site. Use BMPs (Appendix L) to avoid, minimize and/or compensate adverse effects.
5023	X	X	HR:1.1 HR:1.3	Determine the location of renewable energy development on a case-by-case basis consistent with applicable policy and guidance and other resource management and objectives.	Manage areas within 5 miles of trails and sites eligible for the NRHP and Traditional Cultural Properties as renewable energy (specifically wind turbine) exclusion areas, unless structures are screened from the site by intervening topography.	horizon whichever is closer (the SCZ) where setting is an important aspect of the integrity for the site. Use BMPs (Appendix L) to avoid, minimize and/or compensate adverse effects.
					Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative D.
					Avoid surface-disturbing activities and protect the foreground of important cultural sites (see Glossary for definitions of these terms) up to 3 miles or the visual horizon, whichever is closer (the SCZ) where setting is an important aspect of the integrity for the site. Use BMPs (Appendix L) to avoid, minimize and/or compensate adverse effects.	Avoid surface-disturbing activities and protect the foreground of important cultural sites (see Glossary for definitions of these terms) up to 3 miles or the visual horizon, whichever is closer (the SCZ) where setting is an important aspect of the integrity for the site. Use BMPs (Appendix L) to avoid, minimize and/or compensate adverse effects and manage these areas as renewable energy avoidance areas.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

5000 HERITAGE AND VISUAL RESOURCES (HR) – Cultural Resources						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
5024	X	HR:1.1-1.4 HR:2.3	Manage portions of the town of Gebo and adjacent coal mining areas on BLM-administered land for preservation and interpretation of cultural and historic values.	Same as Alternative A, except identify additional trails for foot travel. Include comprehensive information, photographs, and maps on the BLM web site.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
5025	X	X	HR:1.1-1.4 HR:2.3	Manage historic resources in oil and gas fields for scientific and public use. Include the following fields: Elk Basin, Silvertip, Oregon Basin, Hamilton Dome, Grass Creek, Little Buffalo Basin, Walker Dome, Enos Creek, Golden Eagle, Gooseberry, Hidden Dome, Little Grass Creek, and Gebo.	No similar action.	Same as Alternative A, plus include the installation of interpretive signs where fields can be safely viewed.
5026	X	X	HR:3.3	No similar action.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails on BLM-administered land along the Bighorn Slope, Bridger, Owl Creek, and Absaroka Foothills to manage (minimize issues such as looting) for cultural and paleontological resources.	Same as Alternative B.
					Motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails, except where other resources impose more restrictive conditions, on BLM-administered land along the Bighorn Slope, Bridger, Owl Creek, and Absaroka Foothills to manage (minimize issues such as looting) for cultural and paleontological resources.	Same as Alternative D.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

5000 HERITAGE AND VISUAL RESOURCES (HR) – Paleontological Resources						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
GOAL HR:4 Manage, preserve, and protect paleontological resources and areas on BLM-administered land in the Planning Area.						
			Objectives:			
			HR4.1	Reduce threats to paleontological resources from natural or human-caused deterioration.		
			HR4.2	Implement the PFYC as a standard part of review for all surface-disturbing activities in the Planning Area.		
			GOAL HR:5	Promote and enhance scientific knowledge of paleontological resources in the Planning Area.		
			Objectives:			
			HR5.1	Provide paleontological research opportunities for qualified scientists/academia on public lands within the Planning Area in conjunction with the Wyoming State Office Paleontologist, implementing the paleontology permitting program.		
			HR5.2	Provide opportunities for research projects relative to paleoclimate studies in the Planning Area.		
			GOAL HR:6	Promote and implement stewardship, conservation, and appreciation of paleontological resources in the Planning Area.		
			Objectives:			
			HR6.1	Provide opportunities for the public to enjoy limited recreational collection of common invertebrate and plant fossils in portions of the Planning Area.		
			HR6.2	Develop interpretive areas relative to paleontological resources.		
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES						
5027	X	X	HR:4.1	Enlist assistance of permittees, consultants, and the interested public in preventing theft, trespass, and vandalism of paleontological resources.		
5028	X	X	HR:4.2	Protect vertebrate and scientifically significant paleontological resources on BLM-administered land from proposed surface-disturbing activities that could damage or destroy these resources.		
5029	X	X	HR:4.1	Avoid surface-disturbing activities in areas in the immediate vicinity of scientifically significant paleontological resource sites.		
5030	X	X	HR:4	Avoid adverse effects on resource values to sites listed in National Park Service inventories of possible National Natural Landmarks.		
5031	X	X	HR:5.1	Manage scientifically significant paleontological resources for scientific and public use.		
5032	X	X	HR:4.1	Standard stipulations for paleontological resources permits include protection of cultural resources, human remains, and potential areas of concern to Native Americans.		
5033	X	X	HR:6.1	Provide opportunities for the public to enjoy limited recreational collection of common invertebrate and plant fossils in portions of the Planning Area.		
5034	X	X	HR:6.1	Allow for personal casual-use collection of common invertebrate or plant fossils in reasonable quantities on BLM-administered land.		
5035	X	X	HR:4.1	Close or restrict uses upon discovery of vertebrate or scientifically significant paleontological resources on a case-by-case basis.		
5036	X	X	HR:5.1	Recommend application of Standard Terms and Conditions (see Glossary) for Paleontological Resources Excavation permits, issued by the State Office, to address:		
				1. Permit assignment		
				2. Approved timeframes for the permit		
				3. Costs		
				4. Access		
				5. Ownership of the paleontological resources		
				6. Removal of stakes, flagging, or other site identification materials		
				7. Citing in reports		
				8. Restoration of surface disturbance		

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

5000 HERITAGE AND VISUAL RESOURCES (HR) – Paleontological Resources						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
				Law Enforcement/Protection		
5037	X	X	HR:4.1	Close areas with vertebrate or other scientifically significant paleontological resources that are at risk for damage from illegal activities, including theft and vandalism, on a case-by-case basis.	Protect areas with vertebrate or other scientifically significant paleontological resources that are at risk for damage from illegal activities, including theft and vandalism.	Same as Alternative A.
5038	X	X	HR:4.2	Implement the PFYC system (Map 46) as a standard part of review for all surface-disturbing activities in the Planning Area (see Glossary).	Same as Alternative A.	Implement the PFYC system for permitted use exceeding 5 acres.
5039	X	X	HR:4.1 HR:4.2	Require an on-the-ground survey prior to approval of a surface-disturbing activity or land-disposal action, and monitor surface-disturbing activities for all PFYC 4 and 5 formations. PFYC 3 formations may or may not require a survey prior to approval of these actions.	Require an on-the-ground survey prior to approval of a surface-disturbing activity or land-disposal action, and monitor surface-disturbing activities for PFYC 3, 4, and 5 formations.	Require an on-the-ground survey prior to approval of a surface-disturbing activity or land-disposal action, and monitor surface-disturbing activities for PFYC 5 formations.
5040	X	X	HR:4.2	Attach standard Paleontological Resources Protection Stipulations (see Glossary) to authorizations for surface-disturbing activities on PFYC 3, 4 or 5 formations.	Attach standard Paleontological Resources Protection Stipulations (see Glossary) to authorizations for surface-disturbing activities in all areas, regardless of PFYC (i.e., 1 through 5).	Attach standard Paleontological Resources Protection Stipulations (see Glossary) to authorizations for surface-disturbing activities in all areas, regardless of PFYC (i.e., 1 through 5).
					Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
					Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.

- 9. Reports
- 10. Stipulations regarding cultural resources, human remains, or areas of religious or cultural concern to Native Americans

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

5000 HERITAGE AND VISUAL RESOURCES (HR) – Paleontological Resources						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
5041	X	X	HR:4.1	Within 50 feet of a paleontological discovery, prohibit the resumption of activity until written authorization to proceed is issued by the authorized officer.	Within 100 feet of a paleontological discovery, prohibit the resumption of activity until written authorization to proceed is issued by the authorized officer.	Same as Alternative A.
5042	X	X	HR:4.1	Prohibit surface-disturbing activities within at least 50 feet of the outer edge of the paleontological locality.	Prohibit surface-disturbing activities within at least 100 feet of the outer edge of the paleontological locality.	Same as Alternative A.
5043	X	X	HR:4.1	Consider retention and acquisition of lands for significant paleontological resources on a case-by-case basis.	Retain BLM-administered land having vertebrate or other scientifically significant paleontological resources. Pursue opportunities to acquire private lands with vertebrate or other scientifically significant paleontological resources and values adjacent to public lands for protection, via exchange, purchase, or donation on a willing seller, willing buyer basis.	Same as Alternative B, except do not acquire private lands with vertebrate or other scientifically significant paleontological resources and values.
5044	X	X	HR:5.1 HR:5.2	Provide paleontological research opportunities for qualified scientists/academia on BLM-administered land within the Planning Area in conjunction with the Wyoming State Office Paleontologist, implementing the paleontology permitting program.	Same as Alternative A, except actively solicit paleontological research.	Same as Alternative A, except encourage paleontological research.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

5000 HERITAGE AND VISUAL RESOURCES (HR) – Paleontological Resources						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
Education & Interpretation						
5045	X	X	HR:6.1	Do not specifically identify areas for casual use collection of common invertebrate or plant fossils by the public.	Identify and designate areas for casual use/collection of common invertebrate or plant fossils by the public. Manage these areas by restricting all surface use as necessary and restricting paleontological resource collecting as necessary.	Same as Alternative A.
5046	X	X	HR:6.2	Consider development of additional paleontological interpretive areas on a case-by-case basis.	Do not develop, or pursue only minimal development, of additional paleontological resources interpretive areas in the Planning Area.	Develop paleontological interpretive areas within the Planning Area where scientifically significant paleontological resources are known to occur, such as designated paleontological areas or ACECs.

Alternative F
(Greater Sage-Grouse
PH/MAs ACEC)

Alternative E
(Greater Sage-Grouse
Key Habitat Areas ACEC)

Alternative D
(Proposed RMP)

Alternative C
(More Resource Use)

Alternative B
(Least Resource Use)

Alternative A.
Same as Alternative A.

Same as Alternative B.

Same as Alternative A.

Same as Alternative B.

Same as Alternative A.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

5000 HERITAGE AND VISUAL RESOURCES (HR) – Visual Resource Management						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				GOAL HR:7	Maintain the overall scenic (visual) quality of BLM-administered land where consistent with resource values.	
				Objectives:		
				HR:7.1	Class 1 Objective: Preserve the existing character of the landscape. Provide for natural ecological changes; however, preserving the landscape will not preclude very limited management activity. The level of change to the characteristic landscape will be very low and will not attract attention.	
				HR:7.2	Class 2 Objective: Retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape will be low. Management activities may be seen, but will not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.	
				HR:7.3	Class 3 Objective: Partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape will be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes will repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.	
				HR:7.4	Class 4 Objective: Provide for management activities which require major modification to the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt will be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements.	
				MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES		
5047	X	X	HR:7	Manage visual resources in accordance with VRM class objectives.		
5048	X	X	HR:7	Meet the VRM objectives before authorizing land uses that may affect the visual character of the landscape.		
5049	X	X	HR:7	Allow surface-disturbing activities in areas managed as VRM Class II only if the level of change to the landscape from the activities are low, and will not attract the attention of the casual observer, or the project can be mitigated to meet these objectives.		
5050	X	X	HR:7.1	Manage WSAs under VRM Class I objectives.		
				MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE		
5051	X	X	HR:7	VRM Class allocations for BLM-administered surface lands (Map 47) are as follows:	VRM class allocations for BLM-administered surface lands (Map 48) are as follows:	VRM class allocations for BLM-administered surface lands (Map 49) are as follows:
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class I – 141,127 acres (4.4%) • Class II – 340,784 acres (10.6%) • Class III – 890,482 acres (27.9%) • Class IV – 1,815,043 acres (56.9%) • Unclassified – 23 acres (0.001%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class I – 154,359 acres (4.8%) • Class II – 1,784,854 acres (55.9%) • Class III – 394,106 acres (12.3%) • Class IV – 858,263 acres (26.9%) • Unclassified – 24 acres (0.001%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class I – 140,976 acres (4.4%) • Class II – 333,027 acres (10.4%) • Class III – 510,535 acres (16.0%) • Class IV – 2,202,825 acres (69.1%) • Unclassified – 24 acres (0.001%)
						VRM class allocations for BLM-administered surface lands (Map 50) are as follows:
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class I – 141,127 acres (4.4%) • Class II – 731,812 acres (22.9%) • Class III – 738,531 acres (23.1%) • Class IV – 1,580,470 acres (49.5%) • Unclassified – 37 acres (0.001%)
						Same as Alternative D.
						Same as Alternative B.
						Same as Alternative D.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

5000 HERITAGE AND VISUAL RESOURCES (HR) – Visual Resource Management						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
5052	X	X	HR:7.1-7.3	The project proponent may be required to submit VRM contrast rating worksheets on a case-by-case basis.	The project proponent must complete VRM contrast rating worksheets for all proposed actions in areas managed as VRM Classes I, II, or III.	Same as Alternative A, except the project proponent is exempt for all mineral actions and activities in designated ROW corridors.
5053	X	X	HR:7.1-7.3	The project proponent may be required to submit visual simulations on a case-by case-basis.	The project proponent will complete a visual simulation and mitigation design where required prior to approval for all proposed actions within or viewable from areas managed as VRM Classes I and II (Map 48).	The project proponent is not required to submit visual simulations on any projects.
5054	X	X	HR:7.1 HR:7.2	No similar action.	Work with willing landowners and partners to pursue conservation easements on lands adjacent to areas managed as VRM Classes I and II.	Do not pursue conservation easements on lands adjacent to areas managed as VRM Classes I and II.
5055	X	X	HR:7	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in areas managed as VRM Classes I and II.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in areas managed as VRM Class II. Areas managed as VRM Class I are closed to motorized vehicle use.	Motorized vehicle use is not limited by VRM Classes.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Lands and Realty						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
GOAL LR:1				Manage the acquisition, disposal, withdrawal, and use of public lands to meet the needs of internal and external customers and to preserve important resource values.		
Objectives:						
	LR:1.1			Develop and maintain a land-ownership pattern that will provide access for managing and protecting public lands.		
	LR:1.2			Use appropriate actions such as disposal and acquisition to resolve issues related to intermixed land-ownership patterns and to acquire non-federal land having high resource/recreation value(s).		
	LR:1.3			Maintain availability of public lands to meet the habitation, trade, mineral development, recreation, and manufacturing needs of external customers and the general public.		
	LR:1.4			Utilize withdrawals to meet resource protection needs.		
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES						
6001	X	X	LR:1.1 LR:1.3	Consider land use authorizations (permits, leases, etc.) on a case-by-case basis consistent with other resource objectives. Do not classify, open, or make available any BLM-administered lands for agricultural leasing or agricultural entry under the Desert Land Act that meet one or more of the following criteria: unsuitable topography, presence of sensitive resources or resource conflicts, lack of water or access, small parcel size, or unsuitable soils.		
6002	X	X	LR:1.4	When supported by RMP decisions to protect or manage Other resources, pursue newly proposed BLM protective withdrawals and other agency withdrawal requests on a case-by-case basis.		
6003	X	X	LR:1.3 LR:1.4	Retain all public water reserve withdrawals (2,765 acres), except where no longer needed.		
6004	X	X	LR:1.3 LR:1.4	Review 14,381 acres of other agencies' withdrawals within the Planning Area under Section 204 of FLPMA.		
6005	X	X	LR:1.3 LR:1.4	Review of 16,143 acres of BLM-administered power withdrawals and classifications within the Planning Area.		
6006	X	X	LR:1.3	Revoke 3,287 acres of C&MU lands. Upon revocation, manage the lands in accordance with adjacent BLM-administered lands.		
6007	X	X	LR:1.3	Open restored BOR lands to mineral location on a case-by-case basis, except where said lands should remain closed to mineral entry in order to meet other resource objectives.		
6008	X	X	LR:1.3 LR:1.4	Continue existing classifications/segregations on 156,617 acres, unless no longer needed.		
6009	X	X	LR:1..1 LR:1.3	Manage lands and/or interests in lands acquired, and former withdrawn lands relinquished, in a manner consistent with adjacent or nearby BLM-administered land including surface and mineral estate management and pursuing withdrawals as appropriate. Subject to further NEPA analysis, where there is a reversionary interest, land may be disposed where the land is not suitable for return to the public domain.		
6010	X	X	LR:1.1-1.3	Acquire private or state lands or interest in land from willing sellers on a case-by-case basis to consolidate land ownership and enhance the ability to manage important recreation opportunities and wildlife habitats such as migration corridors, crucial big game habitat, and riparian/wetland areas. Except for lands acquired using monies from the Westside Irrigation project conveyance described below, exchange is the preferred method of acquisition.		

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Lands and Realty						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
Alternative D (Proposed RMP)						
6011	X	LR:1.1-1.3	Convey all right, title, and interest (excluding federal mineral interest) in a parcel of public land located in Big Horn County and Washakie County, comprising approximately 16,122 acres, after completion of an environmental analysis under NEPA. An acreage may be added to or subtracted from the land to be conveyed as necessary to satisfy any mitigation requirements under NEPA consistent with resource considerations. Conveyance is to be made to the Westside Irrigation District at current appraised value. Lands within the boundary of the project which are not conveyed under the final decision for this transfer, will be retained in federal ownership, and not available for other disposal actions. Monies paid for Westside Irrigation project lands will be used to acquire lands, also within the Bighorn Basin, with priority purchases defined by BLM in cooperation with stakeholder agencies (WGFDP and SHPO).	Unauthorized use (trespass) on public land will be investigated and resolved on a priority basis. Resolution may include requiring the trespassing party to remove the trespass and restore public lands. Resolution for inadvertent trespass, and especially for long-term, unknowing trespass, may include the sale or exchange of lands at fair market value to the trespassing party, or by modified competitive sale. In the interim, until a decision is made, continued use may be authorized, if determined to be in the public interest. If disposal is selected to resolve the trespass, and the disposal method is to be a FLPMA sale, the parcel size would be the smallest affected parcel, and in accordance with policy.	Consider access easements (including acquisition and exchange) across private lands for access to BLM-administered land. See Appendix M for a list of general areas of interest for easement acquisition based on recreation needs.	Consider classifications for Recreation and Public Purpose lease and conveyance of BLM-administered land on a case-by-case basis.
6012	X	LR:1.1 LR:1.2	Retain classification of BLM-administered land south of Cody for the future expansion of Park County landfill and lands to the north, south, and west of the Worland landfill.	NOTE: The entire Planning Area is open to applications for conveyances to qualified applicants under the Recreation and Public Purpose Act.		
6013	X	LR:1.3	Consider R&PP Act applications from qualified applicants on a case-by-case basis.			
6014	X	LR:1.1-1.3	Consider classifications for Recreation and Public Purpose lease and conveyance of BLM-administered land on a case-by-case basis.			
6015	X	LR:1	Retain classification of BLM-administered land south of Cody for the future expansion of Park County landfill and lands to the north, south, and west of the Worland landfill.			
6016	X	LR:1.1 LR:1.3	Consider R&PP Act applications from qualified applicants on a case-by-case basis.			
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
Retention, Disposal, and Acquisition						
6017	X	X	LR:1.1 LR:1.2	Retain approximately 3,071,909 acres of BLM-administered land. 115,905 acres of BLM-administered land are available for disposal by sale, exchange or other means (Map 51) (Appendix M). Disposal can include none, some, or all of the mineral estate as allowed by 43 CFR 2720 and FLPMA Section 209(b)(1). A mineral potential report would determine if a surface estate disposal includes none, some, or all of the mineral estate.	Retain approximately 3,164,261 acres of BLM-administered land. 24,042 acres of BLM-administered land are available for disposal by sale, exchange or other means (Map 52) (Appendix M). Disposal can include none, some, or all of the mineral estate as allowed by 43 CFR 2720 and FLPMA Section 209(b)(1).	Retain approximately 3,069,967 acres of BLM-administered land. 117,845 acres of BLM-administered land are available for disposal by sale, exchange or other means (Map 53) (Appendix M). Disposal can include none, some, or all of the mineral estate as allowed by 43 CFR 2720 and FLPMA Section 209(b)(1).
					Note: All land actions to acquire or dispose of lands would require a site specific analysis under	Retain approximately 3,121,558 acres of BLM-administered land. 66,363 acres of BLM-administered land are available for disposal by sale, exchange or other means (Map 54) (Appendix M). Disposal can include none, some, or all of the mineral estate as allowed by 43 CFR 2720 and FLPMA Section 209(b)(1). A mineral potential report would determine if a surface estate disposal includes none, some, or

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Lands and Realty						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				NEPA.	NEPA.	Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
Disposal						
6018	X	LR:1.2	No similar action.	Dispose of the locatable mineral estate in the Cody Industrial Park area to entities who wish to purchase the surface	Maintain the locatable mineral estate in the Cody Industrial park area in federal ownership. A mineral potential report	Same as Alternative B. Same as Alternative B. Same as Alternative B.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Lands and Realty						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				estate, depending on locatable mineral potential for the property and as allowed by 43 CFR 2720 and FLPMA Section 209(b)(1). A mineral potential report would determine if a surface estate disposal includes none, some, or all of the mineral estate.	would determine if a surface estate disposal includes none, some, or all of the mineral estate.	Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
Land Use Classification³						
6019	X	X	LR:1.3	1,409 acres are classified as open for entry under the Desert Land Act. Consider DLE applications for unclassified lands on a case-by-case basis subject to DLE criteria (43 CFR §2520).	Revoke 1,409 existing acres of classified DLE lands. Do not classify new lands for DLE.	Same as Alternative A. Same as Alternative A.
Withdrawals						
6020	X	X	LR:1.4	Continue the withdrawal of 188,803 acres in the Planning Area (Map 9).	Withdraw 314,223 acres in the Planning Area (Map 10).	Withdraw 48,095 acres in the Planning Area (Map 11). Existing withdrawals and segregations that are not carried forward will be allowed to expire.
6021	X		LR:1.4	Pursue a withdrawal from appropriation under the mining laws for the Beck Lake Scenic Area (708 acres).	Same as Alternative A.	Do not pursue a withdrawal from appropriation under the mining laws in the Beck Lake Scenic Area (708 acres).
						Further do not issue an order that opens the land to mineral entry.
						Same as Alternative A.
						Same as Alternative D.
						Same as Alternative D.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Renewable Energy						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				GOAL LR:2	Manage and provide opportunities for appropriate renewable energy facilities on public lands.	
Objectives:						
6022	X	X	LR:2.1	Programmatic policies and BMPs for wind-energy development are identified in the <i>Record of Decision for Implementation of a Wind Energy Development Program and Associated Land Use Plan Amendments</i> (BLM 2009e) and IM 2009-043.	Make lands available for renewable energy development consistent with goals and objectives of other resources.	Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHMs As ACEC)
6023	X	X	LR:2.1	Consider authorization of renewable energy projects consistent with the management of other resource values.	In cooperation with project proponents, promote and enhance scientific knowledge of renewable energy resources in the Planning Area (Map 56).	Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)
6024	X	X	LR:2.1	Initiate government-to-government consultation with the appropriate Tribal governments if it is determined that renewable energy development proposals might directly and substantially affect the Tribe.		
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES						
6025	X	X	LR:2.1	Consider renewable energy development on a case-by-case basis.	The Planning Area is open to renewable energy development unless managed as renewable energy or ROW exclusion or avoidance areas to meet other resource objectives (Map 58). A total of 1,428,360 acres is open to renewable energy development. Manage a total of 1,611,040 acres as renewable energy avoidance areas. Manage a total of 1,244,948 acres as renewable energy exclusion areas. Geothermal resources are discussed in the minerals section.	The Planning Area is open to renewable energy development unless managed as renewable energy or ROW exclusion or avoidance areas to meet other resource objectives (Map 59). A total of 1,315,309 acres is open to renewable energy development. Manage a total of 1,500,395 acres as renewable energy avoidance areas. Manage a total of 148,413 acres as renewable energy exclusion areas. Geothermal resources are discussed in the minerals section.
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Rights-of-Way and Corridors						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
GOAL LR:3 Manage public lands to meet transportation and ROW needs consistent with goals and objectives of other resources.						
			Objectives:			
			LR:3.1	Provide opportunities to meet ROW demands while protecting important resources.		
			LR:3.2	Maintain and acquire appropriate ingress, egress, and access routes across state/private lands to BLM-administered land for recreational opportunities and management of public land resources.		
			LR:3.3	Maintain a transportation management system in cooperation with appropriate state and local agencies to meet public and resource management needs.		
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES						
6026	X	X	LR:3.1	In accordance with the <i>Record of Decision for Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, Designation of Energy Corridors on Federal Land in the 11 Western States</i> (DOE and BLM 2008a), designate energy corridor 79-216 in the Planning Area.		
6027	X	X	LR:3.1	Develop communication site management plans for all communication site concentration areas (Map 63).		
6028	X	X	LR:3.1 LR:3.3	The preferred location of new ROW will be in or adjacent to existing disturbed areas associated with existing ROW or high traffic gravel roads or highways, where possible.		
6029	X	X	LR:3.1	Avoid ROW authorizations in areas having a 25 percent or greater average slope (Map 62).		
6030	X	X	LR:3.1	Provide reasonable access across BLM-administered land to private land, subject to other resource concerns.		
6031	X	X	LR:3.1 LR:3.2	Acquire and maintain access easements to BLM-administered land across private/state lands from willing sellers on a case-by-case basis to meet other resource needs.		
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE ⁴						
6032	X	X	LR:3.1	Authorize communication site facilities on a case-by-case basis. Encourage development within designated areas. Co-locate new communication sites where possible.	Allow communication sites in all areas not managed as ROW avoidance or exclusion areas. Require co-location of new communication sites unless there is a demonstrated need to locate communication sites in other locations.	Same as Alternative A. Same as Alternative A.
6033	X	X	LR:3.1	Designate ROW corridors as shown on Map 63.	Designate ROW corridors as shown on Map 64.	Designate ROW corridors as shown on Map 65. Designate ROW corridors as shown on Map 66. In PHMA, major overhead powerlines will not be authorized unless co-located with an existing 115 kilovolt or greater

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Rights-of-Way and Corridors						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
						powerline, as close as technically feasible, not to exceed 0.5 miles or within a designated corridor authorized for overhead powerlines. Distribution lines may be authorized when effectively mitigated to protect greater sage-grouse and the Authorized Officer determines that overhead installation is the action alternative with the fewest adverse impacts. Agricultural and residential lines will be considered to be adequately mitigated for greater sage-grouse if constructed at least 0.6 mile from the lek perimeter with appropriate timing constraints and installation of raptor deterrents. These ROW authorizations will be subject to approval by the State Director.
6034	X	X	LR:3.1	Manage 940,943 acres as ROW avoidance areas (Map 63).	Manage 2,710,695 acres as ROW avoidance areas (Map 64).	Manage 1,173,162 acres as ROW avoidance areas (Map 65).
6035	X	X	LR:3.1	Manage 61,147 acres as ROW exclusion areas (Map 63).	Manage 225,447 acres as ROW exclusion areas (Map 64).	Manage 7,586 acres as ROW exclusion areas (Map 65).
6036	X		LR:3.1	Avoid placement of above-ground facilities, such as powerlines, along major transportation routes.	Where possible, concentrate placement of above-ground facilities along major	Avoid placement of above-ground powerlines within one mile on each side of the Greybull
						Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACrc)
						Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
						Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHIMAs ACEC)

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Rights-of-Way and Corridors						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				transportation routes. Where not possible, do not construct above-ground facilities in exclusion areas, and apply adequate mitigation in consideration of resource values within avoidance areas.	Highway (14-16-20) from the City of Cody to the intersection with Highway 32 near the community of Emblem. Avoid placement of above-ground powerlines within one mile on each side of Highway 32 between Emblem and the BLM-BOR boundary to the north.	Highway (14-16-20) from the City of Cody to the intersection with Highway 32 near the community of Emblem. Avoid placement of above-ground powerlines within one mile on each side of Highway 32 between the City of Cody and the Wyoming-Montana state line. Avoid placement of above-ground powerlines within 1 mile on each side of Highway 120 between the City of Cody and the Meeteetse Rim to the south.
6037	X	X	LR:3 LR:3.3	No similar action.	Consider night skies in evaluation of ROW applications and apply BMPs as appropriate.	Do not consider night skies in the evaluation of ROW applications.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				GOAL LR:4	Utilize a comprehensive approach to travel planning and management to sustain and enhance use.	
				Objectives:		
				LR:4.1	All BLM-administered lands will be classified as open, limited, or closed to motorized travel in consideration of other resource program goals and objectives, primary travelers, objectives for allowing travel in the area, setting (recreation, visual, archeological) characteristics that are to be maintained, and primary means of travel.	
				LR:4.2	Integrate concepts of habitat connectivity into OHV planning to minimize habitat fragmentation.	
				LR:4.3	Manage OHV use by type, season, intensity, distribution, and/or duration to minimize the impact on plant and wildlife habitats. If seasonal closures become appropriate to minimize adverse OHV impacts(s) on public lands resources, strive to preserve public access by designating alternative routes.	
				GOAL LR:5	Manage the use of OHVs in partnership with other land-management agencies, local governments, communities, and stakeholders.	
				Objectives:		
				LR:5.1	Pursue the acquisition of resources for implementing transportation and travel management.	
				LR:5.2	Coordinate public outreach efforts when implementing travel management decisions.	
				GOAL LR:6	Utilize adaptive trails and travel management to protect public land and natural resources and settings, promote safety for all public land users, and minimize conflicts among OHV users and various other uses of public lands.	
				Objectives:		
				LR:6.1	Promote responsible-use recreational opportunities and experiences, visitor access/safety, and resource conservation and education.	
				LR:6.2	Promote trail etiquette, environmental ethics, and a responsible-use stewardship ethic (e.g., tread lightly, leave no trace).	
				LR:6.3	Promote user safety and minimize user conflict.	
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES						
6038	X	X	LR:4.1		Unless otherwise specified in other management actions, motorized vehicle use on BLM-administered land is limited to existing roads and trails on an interim basis until completion of travel management planning. Designation changes from "limited to existing roads and trails" to "limited to designated roads and trails" upon the completion of a travel management plan. Terms "interim existing roads and trails", or "existing roads and trails" are used throughout the document to identify areas of low travel management planning priority. Interim existing roads and trails may be maintained for continued access until completion of a travel management plan.	
6039	X		LR:4		The Lovell shooting range and the Cody Archery Range are closed to motorized and mechanized vehicle use, except where permitted.	
6040	X	X	LR:4		The following areas are closed to motorized vehicle use: Duck Swamp-Bridger Trail Environmental Education Area, the rifle range west of Worland, Salt Lick Trail, Gooseberry Badlands Interpretive Trail, Paint Rock Trail, Lone Tree Trail, Canyon Creek Access Trail, Cottonwood Canyon Trail, and Five Springs Road beyond the locked gate in the CYFO.	
6041	X	X	LR:4		Route designation will be through site specific travel management planning, motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails unless and until route designations are implemented. Subsequent travel management plans will address maintenance of roads, ways, and trails on a site specific basis, in cooperation with stakeholders.	
6042	X	X	LR:6		Motorized travel use is allowed throughout the Planning Area for emergency and administrative use, through other authorities, and maintenance and operations as authorized by permit on case-by-case basis.	
6043	X	X	LR:4		Pedestrian and equestrian travel are not restricted, and use may occur on or off roads or trails, except for very limited seasonal restrictions that are specifically defined elsewhere in this section, or specifically defined in subsequent travel management plans.	

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
					Alternative D (Proposed RMP)	Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACE)
6044	X	X	LR:5	Implement the existing travel management plans within the following areas:		Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHIMAS ACE)
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carter Mountain ACEC • Little Mountain • Upper Nowood • South Brokenback • Renner (Upper and Lower) Wildlife Habitat Management Units • Medicine Lodge Wildlife Habitat Management Units • Paint Rock Area • Cooperative Management Agreement between Bureau of Land Management, Worland District, LU Sheep Company, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and the Wyoming State Board of Land Commissioners (LU Management Agreement) • Rattlesnake Mountain 		
6045	X	X	LR:4 LR:5	Motorized vehicle use (including snowmobile use) is limited to designated roads and trails with a seasonal closure in the following areas:		
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Mountain Travel Management Plan area (9,898 acres), with a seasonal closure, currently December 1 – April 30, in accordance with the travel management plan. • Bald Ridge Area (5,739 acres), with a seasonal closure currently January 1 – April 30 in accordance with the travel management plan. • Twin Creek Trail, with a seasonal closure currently January 1 – April 30 in accordance with the travel management plan. • Carter Mountain Travel Management Plan area (10,951 acres), with a seasonal closure currently November 15 – June 15 in accordance with the travel management plan. • Medicine Lodge Wildlife Habitat Management Area (1,791 acres), with a seasonal closure currently December 1 – June 30 in accordance with the travel management plan. • Upper Renner Wildlife Habitat Management Area (9,184 acres), with a seasonal closure currently December 1 – May 31 in accordance with the travel management plan. 		
				Seasonal closure dates may be adjusted to correspond to with big game hunting seasons.		
6046	X	X	LR:4	Over-the-snow vehicles are subject to the same requirements and limitations as all other motorized vehicles until activity planning specifically addresses their use or unless precluded by other resource needs.		
6047	X	X	LR:6.3	Allow temporary closures to motorized vehicle use in areas that pose public health and safety risks, and/or where resource damage is imminent. In PHIMAS and GHIMAS, temporary closures will be considered in accordance with 43 CFR subpart 8364 (Closures and Restrictions); 43 CFR subpart 8351 (Designated National Area); 43 CFR subpart 6302 (Use of Wilderness Areas, Prohibited Acts, and Penalties); 43 CFR subpart 8341 (Conditions of Use).		
				Temporary closure or restriction orders under these authorities are enacted at the discretion of the authorized officer to resolve management conflicts and protect persons, property, and public lands and resources. Where an authorized officer determines that off-highway vehicles are causing or will cause considerable adverse effects upon soil, vegetation, wildlife, habitat, cultural resources, historical resources, threatened or endangered species, wilderness suitability, other authorized uses, or other resources, the affected areas shall be immediately closed to the type(s) of vehicle causing the adverse effect until the adverse effects are eliminated and measures implemented to prevent recurrence. (43 CFR 8341.2) A closure or restriction order should be considered only after other management strategies and alternatives have been explored. The duration of temporary closure or restriction orders should be limited to 24 months or less; however, certain situations may require longer closures and/or iterative temporary closures. This may include closure of routes or areas.		
6048	X	X	LR:4.2 LR:4.3	Canada Lynx analysis units are closed to motorized over-snow travel (Map 39).		

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
6049	X	X	LR:4	Allow off-road motorized (OHV) (and/or mechanized) vehicle use in areas with limited travel designations to allow direct access for big game retrieval and dispersed campsites, provided that: 1) no resource damage occurs, 2) no new routes are created, and 3) such access is not otherwise prohibited by the BLM authorized officer.	Prohibit off-road motorized (OHV) (and/or mechanized) vehicle use for big game retrieval or dispersed campsites in areas with limited travel designations.	Allow off-road motorized (OHV) (and/or mechanized) vehicle use in areas with limited travel designations to allow direct access for big game retrieval and dispersed campsites, provided that: 1) no resource damage occurs; 2) such access is not otherwise prohibited by the BLM authorized officer; 3) new, dispersed campsites are established on a case-by-case basis.
6050	X	X	LR:4	To protect resource values, approximately 68,115 acres of BLM-administered land in the Planning Area are closed to motorized vehicle use (Map 69). Areas closed to motorized vehicle use are defined in the corresponding special designation and resource alternatives, and also include:	To protect resource values, approximately 170,253 acres of BLM-administered land in the Planning Area are closed to motorized vehicle use (Map 70). Areas closed to motorized vehicle use are defined in the corresponding special designation and resource alternatives, and also include:	To protect resource values, approximately 9,274 acres of BLM-administered land in the Planning Area are closed to motorized vehicle use (Map 71). Areas closed to motorized vehicle use are defined in the corresponding special designation and resource alternatives, and also include:
				• Owl Creek WSA, Red Butte WSA, Bobcat Draw Badlands WSA, and Sheep Mountain WSA	• Cottonwood Creek Trail (also closed to mechanized use)	• To protect resource values, approximately 61,010 acres of BLM-administered land in the Planning Area are closed to motorized vehicle use (Map 72).
				• Paint Rock	• Five Springs Road	• Areas closed to motorized vehicle use are defined in the corresponding special designation and resource alternatives, and also include:
				• Duck Swamp Environmental Education Area	• Pete's Canyon Trail	• Cottonwood Creek Trail (also closed to mechanized use)
					• Spanish Point Karst ACEC	• Mountain WSA, Red Butte WSA, and Bobcat Draw Badlands WSA
					• Spanish Point Karst ACEC	• Paint Rock
					• Threatened and	• Duck Swamp Environmental Education Area
						Same as Alternative D.
						Same as Alternative B.
						Same as Alternative B.
						Same as Alternative D.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cottonwood Creek Trail (also closed to mechanized use) • Five Springs Road • Pete's Canyon Trail • Spanish Point Karst ACEC • Threatened and endangered species habitat (14,238 acres) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> endangered species habitat (14,238 acres) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spanish Point Karst ACEC • Cottonwood Creek Trail (also closed to mechanized use) • Five Springs Road beyond the locked gate • Pete's Canyon Trail • Lovell Shooting Range • Cody Archery Range
6051	X	X	LR:4	To protect resource values until each route is designated as open or closed in a corresponding travel management plan, motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails on approximately 2,315,896 acres of BLM-administered land in the Planning Area (Map 69).	To protect resource values until each route is designated as open or closed in a corresponding travel management plan, motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails on approximately 2,137,574 acres of BLM-administered land in the Planning Area (Map 70). Areas where motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails are defined in the corresponding special designation and resource alternatives, and also includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gebo/Crosby Area (13,350 acres) 	<p>To protect resource values until each route is designated as open or closed in a corresponding travel management plan, motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails on approximately 1,955,943 acres of BLM-administered land in the Planning Area (Map 72).</p> <p>To protect resource values until each route is designated as open or closed in a corresponding travel management plan, motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails on approximately 1,295,072 acres of BLM-administered land in the Planning Area (Map 74).</p>

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management											
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)					
6052	X	X	LR:4 LR:5	To protect resource values, travel management to designate roads and trails is prioritized on approximately 797,077 acres of BLM-administered land in the Planning Area (Map 69). Areas where motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails are defined in the corresponding special designation and resource alternatives, and also include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Areas with fragile soils• Gebo/Crosby Area (13,350 acres)	To protect resource values, travel management to designate roads and trails is prioritized on approximately 2,416,378 acres of BLM-administered land in the Planning Area (Map 70). Areas where motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails are defined in the corresponding special designation and resource alternatives, and also include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gebo/Crosby Area (13,350 acres)	To protect resource values, travel management to designate roads and trails is prioritized on approximately 1,020,748 acres of BLM-administered land in the Planning Area (Map 71). Areas where motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails are defined in the corresponding special designation and resource alternatives, and also include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gebo/Crosby Area (13,350 acres)	To protect resource values, travel management to designate roads and trails is prioritized on approximately 1,159,557 acres of BLM-administered land in the Planning Area (Map 72). Areas where motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails are defined in the corresponding special designation and resource alternatives, and also include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gebo/Crosby Area (13,350 acres)	To protect resource values, travel management to designate roads and trails is prioritized on approximately 1,820,427 acres of BLM-administered land in the Planning Area (Map 74). Areas where motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails are defined in the corresponding special designation and resource alternatives, and also include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gebo/Crosby Area (13,350 acres)	To protect resource values, travel management to designate roads and trails is prioritized on approximately 1,820,427 acres of BLM-administered land in the Planning Area (Map 74). Areas where motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails are defined in the corresponding special designation and resource alternatives, and also include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gebo/Crosby Area (13,350 acres)	To protect resource values, travel management to designate roads and trails is prioritized on approximately 1,820,427 acres of BLM-administered land in the Planning Area (Map 74). Areas where motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails are defined in the corresponding special designation and resource alternatives, and also include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gebo/Crosby Area (13,350 acres)	To protect resource values, travel management to designate roads and trails is prioritized on approximately 1,820,427 acres of BLM-administered land in the Planning Area (Map 74). Areas where motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails are defined in the corresponding special designation and resource alternatives, and also include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gebo/Crosby Area (13,350 acres)

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
6053	X	X	LR:4	Approximately 1,311 acres of BLM-administered land in the Planning Area are open to motorized vehicle use (after an activity plan is developed) (Map 69). Areas open to motorized vehicle use are:	Approximately 3,132 acres of BLM-administered land in the Planning Area are open to motorized vehicle use (after an activity plan is developed) (Map 70). Areas open to motorized vehicle use are:	Approximately 14,830 acres of BLM-administered land in the Planning Area are open to motorized vehicle use (after an activity plan is developed) (Map 71). Areas open to motorized vehicle use are:
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worland OHV Area (1,044 acres) • Hills Area near Lovell (Bentonite Hills) (42 acres) • Lovell Lakes “Motocross” area (158 acres) • Red Lakes OHV Play Area (67 acres) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worland OHV Area (1,311 acres) • Basin Gardens Play Area RMZ (1,821 acres) • Hills area near Lovell (Bentonite Hills) (273 acres) • Lovell Lakes “Motocross” area (158 acres) • Hill climbing areas near Cowley (272 acres) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worland OHV area (1,044 acres) • Basin Gardens Play Area SRMA (4,421 acres) • Hills area near Lovell (Bentonite Hills) (273 acres) • Lovell Lakes “Motocross” area (146 acres) • Hill climbing areas near Cowley (272 acres) <p>Additional Open OHV</p>

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diamond Basin area near Cody (unidentified area) • Red Lakes area near Cody (67 acres) • Rattlesnake Ridge SRMA (7,996 acres) • Basin Gardens Play Area ERMA (4,421 acres) • Areas near Powell and Greybull (unidentified areas) • Area near Park County Landfill (619 acres). 	<p>Areas may be pursued through R&P leases or patent.</p>
Over-Snow Travel						
6054	X	X	LR:4	Areas open to over-snow vehicle use are considered on a case-by-case basis.	In consideration of the presence of resources, areas opened through activity planning to over-snow vehicle use must have a minimum average of 12 inches of snow or be recognized as a groomed motorized trail. If these conditions do not exist then the over-land travel decisions regulate travel in the area.	<p>Areas are open to over-snow vehicle use unless precluded by other resource needs.</p>
6055	X	X	LR:4	No similar action.	<p>The following areas are closed to over-snow vehicle use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All ACECs (302.490 acres) • All lands with wilderness characteristics (476.349 acres) 	<p>Areas are closed to over-snow vehicle use on a case-by-case-basis.</p>

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All WSAs (141,068 acres) • All WSRs 27,317 acres) • Greater sage-grouse winter concentration Areas • Big game crucial winter ranges (1,324,371 acres) (Map 44) 	

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				GOAL LR:7	Respond to distinct recreation customer demand by providing for customer realization of diverse activity, experience, and benefit opportunities.	
				Objectives:		
LR:7.1				Manage SRMAs for specific: visitors, affected community residents, local governments and private sector businesses, or other constituents and the communities or other places where these customers originate (recreation-tourism market). Manage ERMAs in order to address recreation use, demand or recreation and visitor services program investments. ERMAs are managed to support and sustain the principal recreation activities and the associated qualities and conditions of the EMA.		
LR:7.2				Manage for outcome focused objectives, recreation setting character conditions, and the administrative, marketing, and monitoring framework.		
LR:7.3				Manage subunits, also known as RMZs, within SRMAs using planning tools to establish distinct recreation niches.		
LR:7.4				Manage areas outside of RMAs (i.e., not within an SRMA or EMA) in a custodial manner so as to maintain public health and safety, use and user conflicts, and resource protection.		
LR:7.5				Increase awareness understanding and a sense of stewardship in recreational activity participants so their conduct safeguards cultural and natural resources as defined by Wyoming Standards for Public Land and Health or reach specific objectives.		
LR:7.6				Ensure visitors are not exposed to unhealthy or unsafe human created conditions.		
LR:7.7				Manage the direct indirect and cumulative impacts so as to maintain a minimal level of user conflict.		
LR:7.8				Provide public education regarding appropriate use of BLM-administered land.		
LR:7.9				Coordinate with other programs to provide opportunities for public visitation, interpretation, education, and appreciation of natural and cultural resources.		
LR:7.10				Provide and manage events with special recreation permits that eliminate or minimize resource impacts and user conflicts.		
				GOAL LR:8	Develop and maintain appropriate recreational facilities, balancing public demand, protection of public land resources, and fiscal responsibility.	
				Objective:	LR:8.1	Manage and maintain recreation sites and facilities to acceptable operational standards.
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES						
6056	X	X	LR:7.1-7.3	Areas allocated as an SRMA or RMZ will continue to allow for all recreation activity types unless otherwise specified in this RMP or subsequent activity level plan (see Appendix O).		
6057	X	X	LR:7.4-7.7	Utilize on the ground monitoring to ensure Bighorn Basin wide objectives 7.4-7.7 are achieved. Utilize the minimum necessary remedial actions to achieve the stated objective(s) in areas outside of RMAs.		
6058	X	X	LR:7.4-7.7	Issue SRPs to authorize commercial, competitive, and organized recreational use. Evaluate existing BLM outfitter/guide activities for needs to establish future commercial use limitations and related policies (see Appendix O).		
6059	X	X	LR:7.4-7.7	Manage recreational use to maintain or improve wetland habitat conditions along intensively used streams and reservoirs, consistent with the Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands or other guidance (see Appendix N).		

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
					Alternative D (Proposed RMP)	Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)
6060						
6061	X	X	LR:7.6 LR:7.7 LR:7.9	Design recreational sites, recreation facility development, and recreational access to avoid riparian habitat areas or develop and manage them in a manner that minimizes effects on riparian habitats. In PHMAs, do not construct new recreation facilities (e.g., campgrounds, trails, trailheads, staging areas) unless the development would have a net conservation gain to greater sage-grouse habitat (such as concentrating recreation, diverting use away from important habitat areas, etc.), or unless the development is required for visitor health and safety or resource protection.	Continue a withdrawal from appropriation under the mining laws in the Castle Gardens Recreation Site.	Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs ACEC)
6062	X	X	LR:8	Establish new fee sites on a case-by-case basis consistent with the provisions of the Recreation Enhancement Act and as necessary to support management and maintenance of developed sites and related amenities.		
6063	X	X	LR:7.4-7.7 LR:8	Mitigate surface-disturbing and disruptive activities associated with the construction, maintenance, and use of roads, campgrounds, interpretive sites, and other recreational facilities, as described in Appendix H.		
6064	X	X	LR:7.4-7.7	Apply a 16-day campsite occupancy limit throughout the Planning Area unless modified by action through the authorized officer.		
6065	X		LR:7.1-7.9	Maintain an easement across private land for the public to access Rainbow Canyon.		
6066	X	X	LR:7.1-7.9	Retain recreational access in the Bighorn River HMP/RAMP area.		
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
Developed Site Management						
6067	X	X	LR:7.4-7.7 LR:7.9	Apply a NSO restriction at the time of lease offering on the following:	Same as Alternative A, plus apply a NSO restriction on areas within ¼ mile of campgrounds, trailheads, day use areas, and similar recreational sites. At the time of APD submittal, apply a CSU stipulation (site-specific relocation) if the lease does not contain an NSO restriction under other resource management on:	Same as Alternative B. Same as Alternative B.
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishing and hunting access areas (8,025 acres) • Five Springs Falls Campground (approximately 372 acres) • The Cody Archery Range (374 acres) • R&P lease area for the Lovell Rod and Gun Club shooting range 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed (and future) recreation sites, • To mapped (and 	

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				(139 acres).	future) national/regional trails, • Local system trails that connect communities.	
6068	X	X	LR:7.3- 7.7 LR:7.9	Prohibit surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration (except casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat), in the following areas: • Fishing and hunting access (8,025 acres) • Five Springs Falls Campground (approximately 372 acres) • The Cody Archery Range (374 acres) • R&PP lease area for the Lovell Rod and Gun Club shooting range (139 acres)	Same as Alternative A. Allow surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat), on a case-by-case basis in the following areas: • Fishing and hunting access (8,025 acres) • Five Springs Falls Campground (approximately 372 acres) • The Cody Archery Range (374 acres) • R&PP lease area for the Lovell Rod and Gun Club shooting range (139 acres)	Allow surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities in recreational sites and trails on a case-by-case basis if the effects can be avoided, minimized and/or compensated based on site-specific analysis (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat). Recreational sites and trails include areas such as campgrounds, trailheads, day use areas, and river access sites.
6069	X	X	LR:7.7	No similar action.	Minimize noise and light pollution in sensitive areas (e.g., special status species habitat, developed campgrounds, and river corridors) using best available technology.	Minimize noise pollution in sensitive areas (e.g., special status species habitat, developed campgrounds, and river corridors) on a case-by-case basis using best available technology.

Alternative F
(Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)
PHMAs ACEC)

Alternative E
(Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)
PHMAs ACEC)

Alternative D
(Proposed RMP)
PHMAs ACEC)

Alternative B.
Same as Alternative D.

Alternative A.
Same as Alternative B.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
6070	X	X	LR:7.4- 7.7 LR:7.9	Establish interpretive areas (e.g., geological, wildlife, wild horses, cultural interpretive sites, etc.) making use of scenic overlooks, signs, and walking trails.	Unless otherwise noted, do not establish interpretive areas.	Same as Alternative A, plus include facilities and amenities such as hiking trails, picnic areas, etc.
6071	X	X	LR:7.4- 7.7	Manage portions of the town of Gebo and adjacent coal mining areas on BLM-administered land for preservation and interpretation of cultural and historic values.	Do not develop additional interpretation facilities for recreational use around the town of Gebo.	Establish interpretive areas (e.g., geological, wildlife, wild horses, cultural interpretive sites, etc.) making use of scenic overlooks, signs, facilities and amenities, and walking trails on a case-by-case basis.
6072	X	X	LR:7.4- 7.7 LR:8	Avoid surface-disturbing activities, except those related to recreation facility development and maintenance, at campgrounds, trailheads, day use areas, and similar recreational sites on a case-by-case basis.	Manage areas within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of campgrounds, trailheads, day use areas, and similar recreation sites as ROW avoidance areas, except those related to recreation facility development and maintenance.	Same as Alternative A.
Recreation and Visitor Services Overview (Additional management of SRMAs can be found in Appendix O)						
6073	X	X	LR:7.1- 7.3	The 1988 Washakie Resource Area RMP (BLM 1988a), the 1998 Grass Creek Resource Area RMP (BLM 1998a), and the 1990 Cody Resource Area RMP (BLM 1990) recognized seven areas to be managed as SRMAs (Map 75): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Absaroka Foothills SRMA (72,130 acres)• Badlands SRMA	Same as Alternative A, excluding Worland Caves SRMA and Historic Trails SRMA, and with the following additions (Map 76): Rattlesnake Ridge SRMA (7,996 acres) – Manage for a community recreation strategy for the protection of recreation outcomes and setting prescriptions (Appendix O).	Administratively recognize the following area to be managed as SRMAs (Map 77): Absaroka Mountain Foothills SRMA (42,615 acres) – Manage for an undeveloped recreation strategy for the protection of recreation outcomes and setting prescriptions (Appendix O). Same as Alternative B. Same as Alternative D.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bighorn River SRMA (213,981 acres) • West Slope SRMA (15,256 acres) • The Rivers SRMA (375,888 acres) • Historic Trails SRMA (18,247 acres) • Worldland Caves SRMA 	<p>(Appendix O). The Badlands SRMA will include the following RMZs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tour de Badlands (122,616 acres) • Wild Badlands (51,158 acres) • Tatman Mountain (46,912 acres) <p>West Slope SRMA (276,538 acres for WFO, 129,771 acres for CYFO) – Manage for a destination recreation strategy for the protection of the recreation outcomes and setting prescriptions (Appendix O). The West Slope SRMA will include the following RMZs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trapper Creek (83,806 acres) • Paint Rock (45,017 acres) • Brokenback/Logging Road (63,725 acres) • South Bighorns (83,991 acres) <p>Canyon Creek SRMA (3,677 acres) – Manage for a community strategy for the protection of the recreation outcomes and setting prescriptions (Appendix O).</p> <p>Red Canyon Creek SRMA (8,435 acres) – Manage for a community recreation strategy for the protection</p>	<p>(Appendix O).</p> <p>Badlands SRMA (211,561 acres) – Manage for a community recreation strategy for the protection of the recreation outcomes and setting prescriptions (Map 78) (Appendix O). The Badlands SRMA will include the following RMZs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tour de Badlands (111,051 acres) • Wild Badlands (51,155 acres) • Tatman Mountain (49,354 acres) <p>Bighorn River SRMA (2,496 acres) – Manage for a community recreation strategy for the protection of the recreation outcomes and setting prescriptions (Map 78) (Appendix O).</p> <p>West Slope SRMA (129,766 acres in CYFO) – Manage for a destination recreation strategy for the protection of the recreation outcomes and setting prescriptions (Map 78) (Appendix O).</p> <p>Rivers SRMA (6,047 acres) – Manage for a destination recreation strategy for the protection of the recreation outcomes and setting</p>

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				of the recreation outcomes and setting prescriptions (Appendix O).		prescriptions (Map 78)
				Horse Pasture SRMA (144 acres) – Manage for a community recreation strategy for the protection of the recreation outcomes and setting prescriptions (Appendix O).	McCullough Peaks SRMA (160.838 acres) – Manage for a destination recreation strategy for the protection of the recreation outcomes and setting prescriptions (Map 78) (Appendix O).	
				McCullough Peaks SRMA (160.838 acres) – Manage for a destination recreation strategy for the protection of the recreation outcomes and setting prescriptions (Appendix O).	Basin Gardens Play Area SRMA (4.421 acres) – Manage for a community recreation strategy for the protection of the recreation outcomes and setting prescriptions (Map 78) (Appendix O).	
				Basin Garden SRMA (19.771 acres) – Manage for community recreation for the protection of the recreation outcomes and setting (Appendix O). Basin Garden SRMA will include the following RMZs:	Canyon Creek SRMA (3.675 acres) – Manage for a community strategy for the protection of the recreation outcomes and setting prescriptions (Map 78) (Appendix O).	
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Basin Gardens Play Area (1.821 acres) ● Basin Gardens (17.949 acres) 	Horse Pasture SRMA (144 acres) – Manage for a community recreation strategy for the protection of the recreation outcomes and setting prescriptions (Map 78) (Appendix O).	
				Beck Lake SRMA (6.483 acres for CYFO) – Manage for a community recreation strategy for the protection of the recreation outcomes and setting prescriptions (Appendix O).	Middle Fork of the Powder River SRMA (14,644 acres) – Manage for a destination recreation strategy for the protection of the recreation outcomes and setting prescriptions (Map 78) (Appendix O).	
				Newton Lake Ridge SRMA 1,997 acres for CYFO) – Manage for a community		

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				recreation strategy for the protection of the recreation outcomes and setting prescriptions (Appendix O).	78) (Appendix O).	Alternative D (Proposed RMP) West Slope SRMA (190,928 acres in WFO) – Manage for a destination recreation strategy for the protection of the recreation outcomes and setting prescriptions (Map 78) (Appendix O). The West Slope of the Bighorns SRMA will include the following RMZs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Canyons RMZ (141,603 acres)• Brokenback/Logging Road RMZ (49,325 acres) Beck Lake SRMA (6,473 acres) – Manage for a community recreation strategy for the protection of the recreation outcomes and setting prescriptions (Map 78) (Appendix O). Newton Lake Ridge SRMA (1,949 acres) – Manage for a community recreation strategy for the protection of the recreation outcomes and setting prescriptions (Map 78) (Appendix O). Additional Recreation Management prescriptions for each SRMA/RMZ appear in Appendix O.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
6074	X	X	LR:7.3-7.10	The 1988 Washakie Resource Area RMP, the 1998 Grass Creek Resource Area RMP, and the 1990 Cody Resource Area RMP identified 2,390,282 acres not to be designated as RMAs.	Identify the following area as an ERMA: Worland Caves ERMA – Manage cave and karst resources under a specific caves and karst ERMA. BLM lands not managed under ERMA or SRMA objectives are not designated as RMAs and are managed under other multiple-use objectives.	Identify the following areas as ERMAs: • Basin Gardens ERMA (15,349 acres) • Basin Gardens Play Area ERMA (4,421 acres) BLM lands not managed under ERMA or SRMA objectives are not designated as RMAs and are managed under other multiple-use objectives. BLM lands not managed under ERMA or SRMA objectives are not designated as RMAs and are managed under other multiple-use objectives. BLM lands not managed under ERMA or SRMA objectives are not designated as RMAs and are managed under other multiple-use objectives.
Absaroka Foothills Area						
6075	X	X	LR:7.1-7.3	Manage the Absaroka foothills as an SRMA (72,130 acres). The Owl Creek WSA and the Upper Owl Creek ACEC are contained within the Absaroka Foothills SRMA. See the WSA and ACEC sections for management prescriptions.	Manage the Absaroka foothills as an SRMA (72,130 acres) with a destination recreation strategy responsive to, but not restricted to, recreationists and tourists.	Do not manage the Absaroka foothills area as an RMA.
6076	X	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Manage the Absaroka Foothills SRMA to maximize primitive recreational experiences.	Manage the Absaroka Foothills SRMA for nonmotorized recreationists to engage in hiking, wildlife viewing, and nature viewing so that they realize a “moderate” level of the targeted experience and benefit	Manage the Absaroka Mountain Foothills SRMA with an undeveloped recreation strategy, and manage 26,846 acres as the Absaroka ERMA.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				outcomes listed in Appendix O.		recreation setting character conditions, experiences, and benefits as listed in Appendix O.
6077	X	LR:7.1-7.7		Apply a NSO restriction on portions of the Absaroka Foothills SRMA.	Apply a NSO restriction on the Absaroka Foothills SRMA.	Apply a CSU Stipulation on the Absaroka Mountain Foothills SRMA and Absaroka ERMA.
6078	X	LR:7.1-7.7		Allow surface-disturbing activities in the Absaroka Foothills SRMA such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat) on a case-by-case basis.	Close Absaroka Foothills SRMA to surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration (except casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the Absaroka foothills such as geophysical exploration (including casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife).
6079	X	LR:7.1-7.7			Co-locate ROW authorizations whenever possible in the Absaroka Foothills SRMA.	Manage the Absaroka Foothills SRMA as a ROW avoidance area except to provide access to private property or to accommodate a demonstrated need. Evaluate existing ROW on a case-by-case-basis at renewal.
6080	X	LR:7.1-7.7			The Absaroka Foothills SRMA is open to renewable energy development.	Manage the Absaroka Foothills SRMA as a renewable energy avoidance area.
						recreation setting character conditions, experiences, and benefits as listed in Appendix O.
						Outside of the Absaroka Front Management Area, allow surface-disturbing activities in the Absaroka Mountain Foothills SRMA and Absaroka ERMA such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat) on a case-by-case basis.
						Manage the Absaroka Mountain Foothills SRMA and the Absaroka ERMA as ROW avoidance areas, except to accommodate a demonstrated need if the effects can be adequately mitigated. Evaluate existing ROW on a case-by-case-basis at renewal.
						Manage the Absaroka Mountain Foothills SRMA and the Absaroka ERMA as renewable energy avoidance areas.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
6081	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Manage the Absaroka Foothills SRMA as VRM Classes II, III, and IV.	Manage the Absaroka Foothills SRMA as VRM Class II.	Manage the Absaroka foothills as VRM Classes II, III, and IV.	Manage the Absaroka Foothills SRMA as VRM Class II.
6082	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in the Absaroka Foothills SRMA.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in the Absaroka Foothills SRMA. Identify lands within the SRMA as closed to motorized vehicle use.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails in the Absaroka foothills.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in the Absaroka Foothills SRMA and the Absaroka Mountain Foothills SRMA and the Absaroka ERMA.
Bighorn River Area						
6083	X	X	LR:7.1-7.9	Manage the Bighorn River area as an SRMA (15,256 acres).	Manage the Bighorn River area as an SRMA (15,113 acres) with a community recreation strategy responsive to, but not restricted to, local area residents and their guests.	Do not manage the Bighorn River area as an RMA.
6084	X	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Manage the Bighorn River SRMA to maximize river related recreational opportunities.	Manage the Bighorn River SRMA for river recreation use for visitors to engage in sightseeing, hunting, photography, fishing, and floating so that they report realizing a "moderate" level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes listed in Appendix O.	Manage the Bighorn River SRMA the same as Alternative B.
					Manage the Bighorn River area to address use and user conflicts, public health and safety, and resource protection.	Manage the Bighorn River ERMA to address use and user conflicts, public health and safety, resource protection, and to achieve the desired recreation setting character conditions as listed in Appendix O.
					Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative D.
					Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative D.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
6085	X	X	LR:7.1-7.9 LR:8.1	Manage recreational uses of lands along the Bighorn River for fishing, and float boating under the Bighorn River HMP/RAMP. Place emphasis on acquisition of access to public lands on the Bighorn and Greybull rivers to enhance recreational opportunities and wildlife management.	Same as Alternative A, plus include coordination with other land uses and resources.	Manage lands along the Bighorn River for habitat, river health, and wildlife resources under the Bighorn River HMP/RAMP, including coordination with other land uses and resources.
6086	X	X	LR:7.1-7.9	Consider the acquisition of legal and/or physical access for hunting, fishing, boating, and camping in the Bighorn River SRMA. Areas to be considered for acquisition include:	Same as Alternative A.	Consider public access for recreational uses to address use and user conflicts, public health and safety, and resource protection in the Bighorn River area.
6087	X	X	LR:7.1-7.9	Apply a NSO restriction on lands within the Bighorn River SRMA.	Same as Alternative A.	The Bighorn River area is open to mineral leasing subject to standard protection measures.
						Apply a NSO restriction on lands within the Bighorn River SRMA and the Bighorn River ERMA.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
6088	X	X	LR-7.1-7.9	Manage the Bighorn River SRMA as a ROW avoidance area. Co-locate ROW whenever possible.	Manage the Bighorn River SRMA as a ROW exclusion area.	The Bighorn River area is open to new ROW authorizations.
6089	X	X	LR-7.1-7.9	Close the Bighorn River SRMA to surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration (except casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat) on a case-by-case basis.	Close the Bighorn River SRMA to surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration (including casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the Bighorn River area such as geophysical exploration (including casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat) on a case-by-case basis if the effects can be avoided, minimized and/or compensated based on site-specific analysis.
6090	X	X	LR-7.1-7.7	The Bighorn River SRMA is open to renewable energy development.	Manage the Bighorn River SRMA as a renewable energy exclusion area.	The Bighorn River area is open to renewable energy development.
6091	X		LR-7.1-7.9	Manage the Bighorn River SRMA as VRM Classes II and III.	Manage the Bighorn River SRMA as VRM Class II.	Same as Alternative A.
6092	X		LR-7.1-7.9	Manage the Bighorn River SRMA as VRM Classes II, III, and IV.	Manage the Bighorn River SRMA as VRM Class II.	Same as Alternative A.
					Manage the Bighorn River SRMA as VRM Class II.	Same as Alternative B.
					Manage the Bighorn River SRMA as VRM Class II.	Same as Alternative D.
					Manage the Bighorn River SRMA and the Bighorn River ERMA as ROW avoidance areas.	Same as Alternative B.
					Manage the Bighorn River SRMA and the Bighorn River ERMA as renewable energy avoidance areas.	Same as Alternative D.
					Manage VRM in the Bighorn River ERMA consistent with other resource objectives.	Same as Alternative B.
					Manage the Bighorn River SRMA as VRM Class II.	Same as Alternative D.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
6093	X	X	LR:7.1-7.9	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated and existing roads and trails in the Bighorn River SRMA.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails in the Bighorn River area.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails in the Bighorn River area.
Badlands – Tour de Badlands Area						
6094	X	X	LR:7.1-7.7	The Tour de Badlands area is contained within the Badlands SRMA.	Manage the Tour de Badlands area as an RMZ (122,616 acres) within the Badlands SRMA (220,687 acres).	Do not manage the Tour de Badlands area as an RMZ.
6095	X	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Manage the Tour de Badlands area to maximize recreational opportunities such as sightseeing, hiking, and scenic driving.	Manage the Tour de Badlands RMZ for motorized recreationists to engage in motorized sightseeing, touring, wildlife viewing, and nature viewing so that affected community residents report realizing a "moderate" level of recreation experience and benefit from outcomes listed in Appendix O.	Manage the Tour de Badlands area to address use and user conflicts, public health and safety, and resource protection.
6096	X	X	LR:7.1-7.9	Develop one or more scenic interpretive sites and driving loops in the Tour de Badlands area within the Badlands SRMA to highlight the area's scenic values. These could involve the Fifteenmile Creek and Dorsey Creek roads and the Murphy Draw Road with overlooks at the Painted Canyon of Elk Creek and at Bobcat Draw.	Same as Alternative A, except provide for additional interpretive areas in the Tour de Badlands RMZ on a case-by-case basis.	Develop recreation facilities (i.e., trailheads, trails, etc.) in the Tour de Badlands area only to address use and user conflicts, public health and safety, or resource protection.
						Same as Alternative B.
						Same as Alternative D.
						Same as Alternative E.
						Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC) PHMAs A/E/C)

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
6097	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Review mineral leases on a case-by-case basis and apply mitigation through activity level planning.	Apply a NSO restriction on the Tour de Badlands RMZ.	The Tour de Badlands area is open to mineral leasing subject to standard protection measures.	Same as Alternative A.
6098	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the Tour de Badlands area such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat) on a case-by-case basis.	Prohibit surface-disturbing activities in the Tour de Badlands RMZ such as geophysical exploration (except casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the Tour de Badlands area such as geophysical exploration (including casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the Tour de Badlands RMZ such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat), on a case-by-case basis.
6099	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Co-locate ROW whenever possible in the Tour de Badlands area.	Manage the Tour de Badlands RMZ as a ROW avoidance area.	The Tour de Badlands area is open to ROW authorizations.	Manage the Tour de Badlands RMZ as a ROW avoidance area and co-locate ROWs whenever possible.
6100	X	LR:7.1-7.7	The Tour de Badlands area is open to renewable energy development.	Manage the Tour de Badlands RMZ as a renewable energy avoidance area.	The Tour de Badlands area is open to renewable energy development.	Manage the Tour de Badlands RMZ as a ROW avoidance area and co-locate ROWs whenever possible.
6101	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Manage the Tour de Badlands area as VRM Classes II, III, and IV.	Manage the Tour de Badlands RMZ as VRM Class II.	Same as Alternative A.	Manage VRM in the Tour de Badlands RMZ consistent with other resource objectives.
6102	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails in the Tour de Badlands area.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in the Tour de Badlands RMZ.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative B.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
Badlands – Wild Badlands Area						
61.03	X	LR 7.1-7.7	The Wild Badlands area is contained within the Badlands SRMA and managed under the authority of BLM Manual 6330, <i>Management of Wilderness Study Areas</i> . All lands within the Wild Badlands are Bobcat Draw Badlands, Sheep Mountain, and Red Butte WSAs. See WSA section for management prescriptions.	Manage the Wild Badlands area as an RMZ (51,158 acres) within the Badlands SRMA.	Do not manage the Wild Badlands area as an RMA. All lands within the Wild Badlands area will continue to be managed under BLM Manual 6330. See WSA section for management prescriptions.	Manage the Wild Badlands area as an RMZ (51,155 acres) within the Badlands SRMA.
61.04	X	LR 7.1-7.4	Manage the Wild Badlands area for naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude, and primitive and unconfined recreation. See WSA section for management prescriptions.	Manage the Wild Badlands RMZ exclusively for nonmotorized recreation opportunities, such as hiking, wildlife viewing, and nature viewing so that affected community residents report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes listed in Appendix O. See WSA section for management prescriptions.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative B.
Badlands – Tatman Mountain Area						
61.05	X	LR 7.1-7.9	The Tatman Mountain area is contained within the Badlands SRMA.	Manage the Tatman Mountain area as an RMZ (46,912 acres within the Badlands SRMA).	Do not manage the Tatman area as an RMA.	Manage the Tatman Mountain area as an RMZ (49,354 acres) within the Badlands SRMA.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
61.06	X	LR:7.1-7.9	Manage the Batman Mountain area to maximize recreational opportunities such as sightseeing, hiking, and driving for pleasure.	Manage the Batman Mountain RMZ for nonmotorized recreation opportunities such as hiking, mountain biking, and nature viewing so that recreationists report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes listed in Appendix O.	Manage the Batman Mountain area to address use and user conflicts, public health and safety, and resource protection.	Same as Alternative B.
61.07	X	LR:7.1-7.9	Emphasize opportunities for recreational access to the Batman Mountain area.	Same as Alternative A.	Opportunities for recreational access in the Batman Mountain area will only be to address use and user conflicts, public health and safety, or resource protection.	Emphasize opportunities for recreational access to the Batman Mountain RMZ.
61.08	X	LR:7.1-7.9	Consider the acquisition of legal and/or physical access for recreational opportunities in the Batman Mountain area.	Acquire legal and physical access to maximize recreational opportunities in the Batman Mountain RMZ.	Acquisition of legal and/or physical access in the Batman Mountain area will only be to address use and user conflicts, public health and safety, or resource protection.	Same as Alternative B.
61.09	X	LR:7.1-7.9	Review mineral leases in the Batman Mountain area on a case-by-case basis and apply mitigation through activity level planning.	Apply a NSO restriction on the Batman Mountain RMZ.	The Batman Mountain area is open to mineral leasing subject to standard protection measures.	Apply a CSU stipulation on the Batman Mountain RMZ.
61.10	X	LR:7.1-7.9	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the Batman Mountain area such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation	Prohibit surface-disturbing activities in the Batman Mountain RMZ such as geophysical exploration (except casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the Batman Mountain area such as geophysical exploration (including casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (including those related to	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the Batman Mountain, such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
			facilities or wildlife habitat) on a case-by-case basis.	(except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).	(including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife).	development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat), on a case-by-case basis.
61.11	X	LR.7.1-7.9	Co-locate ROW whenever possible in the Tatman Mountain area.	Manage the Tatman Mountain RMZ as a ROW avoidance area.	The Tatman Mountain area is to open ROW authorizations.	Same as Alternative B.
61.12	X	LR.7.1-7.9	The Tatman Mountain area is open to renewable energy development.	Manage the Tatman Mountain RMZ as a renewable energy avoidance area.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative B.
61.13	X	LR.7.1-7.9	Manage the Tatman Mountain area as VRM Classes III and IV.	Manage the Tatman Mountain RMZ as VRM Class II.	Same as Alternative A.	Manage VRM in the Tatman Mountain RMZ consistent with other resource objectives.
61.14	X	LR.7.1-7.9	Motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails in the Tatman Mountain area.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in the Tatman Mountain RMZ.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative B.
West Slope of the Bighorns Area Cody Field Office						
61.15	X	LR.7.1-7.3	Manage the West Slope of the Bighorns as the West Slope SRMA (375,888 acres). Five Springs Falls and Little Mountain ACCs are contained within the West Slope SRMA. Please refer to the ACEC section for management prescriptions.	Manage the West Slope SRMA (406,309 acres) for a destination recreation strategy for the protection of the recreation outcomes and setting prescriptions (Map 76) (Appendix O).	Do not manage the West Slope of the Bighorns area as an RMA.	Manage the West Slope SRMA (320,704 acres) for destination recreation strategy for the protection of the recreation outcomes and setting prescriptions (Map 78) (Appendix O).
61.16	X	LR.7.1-7.3	Manage the West Slope SRMA for motorized and nonmotorized dispersed recreation.	Manage the West Slope SRMA for motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities such as hunting, hiking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, and nature viewing so that recreationists report	Manage the West Slope of the Bighorns to address use and user conflicts, public health and safety, and resource protection.	Same as Alternative B.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				realizing a "moderate" level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes listed in Appendix O.		
6117	X	LR.7.1-7.9	Develop a recreation site at Rainbow Canyon in the West Slope SRMA.	Do not develop a recreation site at Rainbow Canyon in the West Slope SRMA.	Same as Alternative A, plus include amenities such as an access road, parking, trail, and interpretive signs at Rainbow Canyon in the West Slope of the BigHorns area.	Same as Alternative A, plus include amenities such as an access road, parking, trail, and interpretive signs at Rainbow Canyon in the West Slope SRMA.
6118	X	LR.7.1-7.9	Install additional directional and interpretive signs to facilitate recreational use of the West Slope SRMA.	Same as Alternative A.	Do not install interpretive signs in the West Slope of the BigHorns area. Install directional signs.	Same as Alternative A.
6119	X	LR.7.1-7.7	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the West Slope SRMA such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat) on a case-by-case basis.	Prohibit surface-disturbing activities in the West Slope SRMAs such as geophysical exploration (except casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the West Slope of the BigHorns area such as geophysical exploration (including casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife).	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the West Slope SRMA such as geophysical exploration (including casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife).
6120	X	LR.7.1-7.7	The West Slope SRMA is open to renewable energy development.	Manage the West Slope SRMA as a renewable energy avoidance area.	The West Slope of the BigHorns area is open to renewable energy development.	Same as Alternative B.
6121	X	LR.7.1-7.9	Manage the West Slope SRMA as VRM Classes II, III, and IV.	Manage the West Slope SRMA as VRM Class II.	Manage the West Slope SRMA as VRM Classes II and III.	Same as Alternative B.
						Same as Alternative D.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
6122	X	LR:7.1-7.9	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in the West Slope SRMA.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in the West Slope SRMA.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails in the West Slope of the Bighorns area.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails in the West Slope of the Bighorns area.
West Slope of the Bighorns Workland Field Office – Trapper Creek Area						
6123	X	LR:7.1-7.9	The Trapper Creek area (which includes Trapper Creek and Alkali Creek WSAs, and Spanish Point Karst ACEC) is contained within the West Slope SRMA. See the WSA and ACEC sections for management prescriptions.	Manage the Trapper Creek area as an RMZ (83,806 acres) contained within the West Slope SRMA.	Do not manage the Trapper Creek area as an RMZ.	Manage the Trapper Creek area as part of the Canyons RMZ (141,603 acres) contained within the West Slope of the Bighorns SRMA (320,704 acres in WFO).
6124	X	LR:7.1-7.9	Manage the Trapper Creek area for motorized and nonmotorized dispersed recreation.	Manage the Trapper Creek RMZ for motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities such as hiking, wildlife viewing, nature viewing, and driving for pleasure so that recreationists report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes listed in Appendix O.	Manage the Trapper Creek area to address use and user conflicts, public health and safety, and resource protection.	Manage the Trapper Creek area of the Canyons RMZ for motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities such as hiking, wildlife viewing, nature viewing, and driving for pleasure so that recreationists report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes listed in Appendix O.
6125	X	LR:7.1-7.9	Consider the acquisition of legal and/or physical access for hunting, fishing, and camping. Consider acquiring areas such as Horse Mountain, Trapper Creek, and White Creek.	Same as Alternative A, plus acquire legal public access for motorized and/or mechanized vehicle use in the Trapper Creek RMZ.	Acquisition of legal and/or physical access in the Trapper Creek area will only be to address use and user conflicts, public health and safety, or resource protection.	Same as Alternative A, plus acquire legal public access for motorized and/or mechanized vehicle use in the Trapper Creek area of the Canyons RMZ.
6126	X	LR:7.1-7.9 LR:8.1	Develop facilities necessary for site protection and visitor management at the	Same as Alternative A, plus develop the following facilities in the Trapper	Facility development to maximize recreational opportunities in the	Same as Alternative A, plus develop the following facilities in the Trapper
Same as Alternative D.						

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
			trailhead in the Trapper Creek area. Facilities may include fire rings, comfort stations, fencing, parking areas, road improvements and vehicle barriers, and trail and bridge repair, depending on the needs of the specific site.	Creek RMZ: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trailheads for White Creek, Black Mountain areas. • Trailheads to accommodate mountain bike users. • Pull-offs along the Red Gulch/Aalkai Road National Back Country Byway. • Designate motorized touring loops within the Trapper Creek RMZ, as well as connecting with the Paint Rock RMZ and the Bighorn National Forest, which may include new construction. • Other sites will be determined on a case-by-case basis. 	Trapper Creek area will be a low priority. Facility development will only be to address use and user conflicts, public health and safety, or resource protection.	Creek area of the Canyons RMZ: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trailheads for White Creek, Black Mountain areas. • Trailheads to accommodate mountain bike users. • Pull-offs along the Red Gulch/Aalkai Road National Back Country Byway. • Designate motorized touring loops within the Trapper Creek area, as well as connecting with the Paint Rock area and the Bighorn National Forest, which may include new construction. • Other sites will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
61.27	X	LR:7.1-7.9	Review mineral leases on a case-by-case basis and apply mitigation through activity level planning in the Trapper Creek area.	Apply a NSO restriction on the Trapper Creek RMZ.	The Trapper Creek area is open to mineral leasing subject to standard protection measures, with the exception of Trapper Creek WSA, and Spanish Point ACEC.	Apply a CSU stipulation on the Trapper Creek area of the Canyons RMZ.
61.28	X	LR:7.1-7.9	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the Trapper Creek area such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (including those related to	Prohibit surface-disturbing activities in the Trapper Creek RMZ such as geophysical exploration (except casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the Trapper Creek area such as geophysical exploration (including casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the Trapper Creek area such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
			development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat) on a case-by-case basis.	construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).	construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat), except in the Trapper Creek VSA.	(including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat) if the effects can be avoided, minimized and/or compensated based on site-specific analysis.
61.29	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Manage lands within the Trapper Creek area as ROW avoidance areas. Co-locate ROW whenever possible.	Manage the Trapper Creek RMZ as a ROW avoidance area.	The Trapper Creek area is open to ROW authorizations.	Manage the Trapper Creek area of the Canyons RMZ as a ROW avoidance area.
61.30	X	LR:7.1-7.7	The Trapper Creek area is open to renewable energy development.	Manage the Trapper Creek RMZ as a renewable energy avoidance area.	Same as Alternative A.	Manage the Trapper Creek area of the Canyons RMZ as a renewable energy avoidance area.
61.31	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Manage the Trapper Creek area as VRM Classes II, III, and IV.	Manage the Trapper Creek RMZ as VRM Class I.	Same as Alternative A.	Manage the Trapper Creek area of the Canyons RMZ area as VRM Classes I, II, and III.
61.32	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in the Trapper Creek area.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in the Trapper Creek RMZ.	Same as Alternative A.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in the Trapper Creek area of the Canyons RMZ.
West Slope of the Bighorns Worland Field Office – Paint Rock Area						
61.33	X	LR:7.1-7.9	The Paint Rock area is contained within the West Slope SRMA. Medicine Lodge WSA and the Spanish Point Karst ACEC are contained within this area. See WSA and ACEC sections for management prescriptions.	Manage the Paint Rock area (45.017 acres) as an RMZ contained within the West Slope SRMA.	Do not manage the Paint Rock area as an RMA.	Manage the Paint Rock area as part of the Canyons RMZ (141,603 acres) contained within the West Slope of the Bighorns SRMA.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
6134	X	LR:7.1-7.9	Manage the Paint Rock area for motorized and nonmotorized dispersed recreation.	Manage the Paint Rock RMZ for motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities to engage in hiking, wildlife viewing, nature viewing, and driving for pleasure so that recreationists report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes listed in Appendix O.	Manage the Paint Rock area to address use and user conflicts, public health and safety, and resource protection.	Manage the Paint Rock area of the Canyons RMZ for motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities to engage in hiking, wildlife viewing, nature viewing, and driving for pleasure so that recreationists report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes listed in Appendix O.
6135	X	LR:7.1-7.9	Emphasize opportunities for recreational access, especially in the Laddie Creek and Paint Rock Creek areas.	Same as Alternative A, plus pursue yearlong access to the Paint Rock canyon via the Paint Rock Trail in the Paint Rock RMZ.	Opportunities for recreational access in the Paint Rock area will only be to address use and user conflicts, public health and safety, or resource protection.	Emphasize opportunities for recreational access, especially in the Laddie Creek and Paint Rock Creek areas and pursue yearlong access to the Paint Rock canyon via the Paint Rock Trail in the Paint Rock area of the Canyons RMZ.
6136	X	LR:7.1-7.9 LR:8.1	Develop facilities necessary for site protection and visitor management at the trailheads on Paint Rock Creek and Medicine Lodge Creek in the Paint Rock area. Facilities may include fire rings, comfort stations, fencing, parking areas, road improvements and vehicle barriers, and trail and bridge repair, depending on the needs of the specific site.	Develop facilities to enhance recreation and visitor services for the following areas in the Paint Rock RMZ: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trailheads/pull-offs along the Red Gulch/Akali Road National Back Country Byway. • Upgrade Access route and Trailhead at the Lone Tree Trail. • Trailhead at the Wapati Ridge. 	Facility development to maximize recreational opportunities in the Paint Rock area will be a low priority. Facility development will only be to address use and user conflicts, public health and safety, or resource protection. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trailheads/pull-offs along the Red Gulch/Akali Road National Back Country Byway. • Upgrade Access route and Trailhead at the Lone Tree Trail. • Designate motorized touring loops 	Develop facilities to enhance recreation and visitor services for the following areas in the Paint Rock area of the Canyons RMZ: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trailheads/pull-offs along the Red Gulch/Akali Road National Back Country Byway. • Upgrade Access route and Trailhead at the Lone Tree Trail. • Designate motorized touring loops

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hiking trails in Wet and Dry Medicine Lodge Canyons. Designate motorized touring loops connecting with the Bighorn National Forest, the Trapper Creek RMZ, and the Brokenback/Logging Road RMZ, which may include new construction. Other sites will be determined on a case-by-case basis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designate motorized touring loops connecting with the Bighorn National Forest, the Trapper Creek RMZ, and the Brokenback/Logging Road RMZ, which may include new construction. Other sites, trailheads, and trails will be determined on a case-by-case basis. 	
61.37	X	LR:7.1-7.9	Review mineral leases on a case-by-case basis and apply mitigation through activity level planning in the Paint Rock area.	Apply a NSO restriction on the Paint Rock RMZ.	The Paint Rock area will be open to mineral leasing subject to standard protection measures.	Apply a CSU stipulation on the Paint Rock area of the Canyons RMZ.
61.38	X	LR:7.1-7.9	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the Paint Rock area such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat) on a case-by-case basis.	Prohibit surface-disturbing activities in the Paint Rock RMZ such as geophysical exploration (except casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the Paint Rock area such as geophysical exploration (including casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife).	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the Paint Rock area of the Canyons RMZ such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife) if the effects can be avoided, minimized and/or compensated based on site-specific analysis.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
61.39	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Manage the Paint Rock area as a ROW avoidance area. Co-locate ROW authorizations whenever possible.	Manage the Paint Rock RMZ as a ROW avoidance area.	The Paint Rock area is open to ROW authorizations, with the exception of the Medicine Lodge WSA.	Manage the Paint Rock area of the Canyons RMZ as a ROW avoidance area.
61.40	X	LR:7.1-7.7	The Paint Rock area is open to renewable energy development.	Manage the Paint Rock RMZ as a renewable energy avoidance area.	The Paint Rock area, with the exception of the Medicine Lodge WSA and the Spanish Point ACEC, is open to renewable energy development.	Manage the Paint Rock area of the Canyons RMZ as a renewable energy avoidance area.
61.41	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Manage the Paint Rock area as VRM Classes II, III, and IV.	Manage the Paint Rock RMZ as VRM Class I.	Same as Alternative A.	Manage the Paint Rock area of the Canyons RMZ as VRM Class I and II.
61.42	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in the Paint Rock area. Continue to implement travel management plans in the Paint Rock area.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in the Paint Rock RMZ.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails in the Paint Rock area. Maintain implemented travel management plans.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in the Paint Rock area of the Canyons RMZ.
West Slope of the BigHorns Worland Field Office – Brokenback/Logging Road Area						
61.43	X	LR:7.1-7.9	The Brokenback/Logging Road area is contained within the West Slope SRMA.	Manage Brokenback/ Logging Road (63.725 acres) contained within the West Slope SRMA.	Do not manage the Brokenback/Logging Road area as an RMZ (49.325 acres) contained within the West Slope of the BigHorns SRMA.	Manage Brokenback/ Logging Road as an RMZ (49.325 acres) contained within the West Slope of the BigHorns SRMA.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
6144	X	LR:7.1-7.9	Manage the Brokenback/Logging Road area for motorized and nonmotorized dispersed recreation.	Manage the Brokenback/Logging Road RMZ for motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities such as hiking, wildlife viewing, nature viewing, and driving for pleasure so that recreationists report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes listed in Appendix O.	Manage the Brokenback/Logging Road area to address use and user conflicts, public health and safety, and resource protection.	Same as Alternative B.
6145	X	LR:7.1-7.9	Emphasize opportunities for recreational access, especially in the Laddie Creek areas of the Brokenback/Logging Road area.	Same as Alternative A, also including additional areas within the Brokenback/Logging Road RMZ to be determined on a case-by-case basis.	Opportunities for recreational access in the Brokenback/Logging Road area will only be to address use and user conflicts, public health and safety, or resource protection.	Same as Alternative B.
6146	X	LR:7.1-7.9	Consider the acquisition of legal and/or physical access for hunting, fishing, boating, and camping in the Brokenback/Logging Road area. Consider areas for acquisition including North and South Brokenback Creek.	Same as Alternative A, with the following additions in the Brokenback/Logging Road RMZ: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luman Creek Road. • Military Creek Road. • Dorn Draw Road. • Other sites will be determined on a case-by-case basis. 	Acquisition of legal and/or physical access in the Brokenback/Logging Road area will only be to address use and user conflicts, public health and safety, or resource protection.	Same as Alternative B.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
6147	X	LR:7.1-7.9 LR:8.1	Develop facilities necessary for site protection and visitor management in the Brokenback/Logging Road area.	Develop facilities to enhance recreation and visitor services for the following areas in the Brokenback/Logging Road RMZ: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trailheads for North and South Brokenback areas, Laddie Creek, and the Hyattville Logging Road Back Country Byway. • Pull-outs along the Hyattville Logging Road Back Country Byway. • Improve Salt Lick Trail and trailhead. • Construct additional trailheads and trails. • Designate motorized touring loops within the Brokenback/Logging road RMZ as well as connecting with the Paint Rock area and the Bighorn National Forest, which may include new construction. • Other sites will be determined on a case-by-case basis. 	Facility development to maximize recreational opportunities in the Brokenback/Logging Road area will be a low priority. Facility development will only be to address use and user conflicts, public health and safety, or resource protection. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trailheads for North and South Brokenback areas, Laddie Creek, and the Hyattville Logging Road. • Pull-outs along the Hyattville Logging Road. • Improve Salt Lick Trail and trailhead. • Designate motorized touring loops within the Brokenback/Logging road RMZ as well as connecting with the Paint Rock area and the Bighorn National Forest, which may include new construction. • Other sites, trailheads and trails will be determined on a case-by-case basis. 	Develop facilities to enhance recreation and visitor services for the following areas in the Brokenback/Logging Road RMZ: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trailheads for North and South Brokenback areas, Laddie Creek, and the Hyattville Logging Road. • Pull-outs along the Hyattville Logging Road. • Improve Salt Lick Trail and trailhead. • Designate motorized touring loops within the Brokenback/Logging road RMZ as well as connecting with the Paint Rock area and the Bighorn National Forest, which may include new construction. • Other sites, trailheads and trails will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
6148	X	LR:7.1-7.9	Review mineral leases on a case-by-case basis and apply mitigation through activity level planning in the Brokenback/Logging Road area.	Apply a NSO restriction on the Brokenback/Logging Road RMZ.	The Brokenback/Logging Road area is open to mineral leasing subject to standard protection measures.	Apply a CSU stipulation on the Brokenback/Logging Road RMZ.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
6149	X	LR.7.1-7.7	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the Brokenback/Logging Road area such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat) on a case-by-case basis.	Prohibit surface-disturbing activities in the Brokenback/Logging Road RMZ such as geophysical exploration (except casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the Brokenback/Logging Road areas such as geophysical exploration (including casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the Brokenback/Logging Road RMZ such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat) if the effects can be avoided, minimized and/or compensated based on site-specific analysis.
6150	X	LR.7.1-7.7	Manage the Brokenback/Logging Road area as a ROW avoidance area. Co-locate ROW authorizations whenever possible.	Manage the Brokenback/Logging Road RMZ as a ROW avoidance area.	The Brokenback/Logging Road RMZ is closed to renewable energy development.	The Brokenback/Logging Road area is open to ROW authorizations.
6151	X	LR.7.1-7.7	The Brokenback/Logging Road area is open to renewable energy development.		Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative B.
6152	X	LR.7.1-7.7	Manage the Brokenback/Logging Road area as VRM Classes II, III, and IV.	Manage the Brokenback/Logging Road RMZ as VRM Class I.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative B.
6153	X	LR.7.1-7.7	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in the Brokenback/Logging Road area. Implement travel management plans in the Brokenback/Logging Road.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in the Brokenback/Logging Road RMZ.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails in the Brokenback/Logging Road area. Maintain implemented travel management plans.	Same as Alternative B.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
West Slope of the Bighorns Worland Field Office – South Bighorns Area						
6154	X	LR7.1-7.9	The South Bighorns area is contained within the West Slope SRMA.	Manage the South Bighorns area as an RMZ (83,991 acres) contained within the West Slope SRMA.	Do not manage the South Bighorns area as an RMZ (83,991 acres) contained within the West Slope SRMA.	Manage a portion of the South Bighorns area as the Middle Fork of the Powder River SRMA (14,644 acres) and a portion as the Southern Bighorns ERMA (69,325 acres).
6155	X	LR7.1-7.9	Manage the South Bighorns area for motorized and nonmotorized dispersed recreation.	Manage the South Bighorns RMZ for motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities such as hiking, wildlife viewing, nature viewing, hunting, fishing and driving for pleasure so that recreationists report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes listed in Appendix O.	Manage the South Bighorns area to address use and user conflicts, public health and safety, and resource protection.	Manage the Middle Fork of the Powder River SRMA, for motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities such as hiking, wildlife viewing, nature viewing, hunting, fishing and driving for pleasure so that recreationists report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes listed in Appendix O.
					Manage the Middle Fork of the Powder River SRMA, for motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities such as hiking, wildlife viewing, nature viewing, hunting, fishing and driving for pleasure so that recreationists report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes listed in Appendix O.	Same as Alternative D.
						Same as Alternative B.
						Same as Alternative D.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
6156	X	LR:7.1-7.9	Emphasize opportunities for recreational access, especially in the Upper Nowood River areas in the South Bighorns area.	Emphasize recreational access to maximize recreational opportunities in the South Bighorns RMZ.	Opportunities for recreational access in the South Bighorns area will only be in response to use and user conflicts, public health and safety, or to address resource protection.	Emphasize recreational access to maximize recreational opportunities in the Middle Fork of the Powder River SRMA and the Southern Bighorns ERMA.
6157	X	LR:7.1-7.9	Consider the acquisition of legal and/or physical access for hunting, fishing, boating, and camping in the South Bighorns area. Areas considered for acquisition include Otter Creek, Deep Creek, Little Canyon Creek, and public land tracts along the Nowood River area.	Same as Alternative A, with the following additions in the South Bighorns RMZ: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cherry Creek Road to Hazelton Road. • Access to land parcels within Spring Creek. • Spring Creek Road to Rome Hill Road. • Lysite Mountain. • Other sites will be determined on a case-by-case basis. 	Acquisition of legal and/or physical access in the South Bighorns area will only be to address use and user conflicts, public health and safety, or resource protection.	Manage the Middle Fork of the Powder River SRMA and the Southern Bighorns ERMA the same as Alternative A. Other sites will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
6158	X	LR:7.1-7.9 LR:8.1	In the South Bighorns area, develop facilities necessary for site protection and visitor management at the Middle Fork camping area and the Cherry Creek stock driveway crossing of Deep Creek, and in Otter Creek. Facilities may include fire rings, comfort stations, fencing, parking areas, road improvements and vehicle barriers, and trail and bridge repair, depending on the needs of the specific site.	In the South Bighorns RMZ, develop facilities necessary to maximize recreational opportunities in the areas the same as Alternative A, with the following additions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trailheads for Middle Fork Campground, Mahogany Butte, Deep Creek, Upper Nowood areas, and in other areas determined on a case-by-case basis. 	Facility development to maximize recreational opportunities in the South Bighorns area will be a low priority. Facility development will only be to address use and user conflicts, public health and safety, or resource protection.	In the Middle Fork of the Powder River SRMA and the Southern Bighorns ERMA, develop facilities necessary to maximize recreational opportunities in the areas the same as Alternative A, with the following additions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trailheads for Middle Fork Campground, Mahogany Butte, Deep Creek, Upper Nowood areas, and in other areas determined on a case-by-case basis.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
61.59	X	LR.7.1-7.9	Review mineral leases on a case-by-case basis and apply mitigation through activity level planning in the South Bighorns area.	Apply a NSO restriction on the South Bighorns RMZ.	The South Bighorns area will be open to mineral leasing subject to standard protection measures.	Apply a CSU stipulation on the Middle Fork of the Powder River SRMA. Review mineral leases on a case-by-case basis and apply mitigation through activity level planning in the Southern Bighorns ERMA.
61.60	X	LR.7.1-7.7	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the South Bighorns area such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat) on a case-by-case basis.	Prohibit surface-disturbing activities in the South Bighorns RMZ such as geophysical exploration (except casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the South Bighorns area such as geophysical exploration (including casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat) if the effects can be avoided, minimized and/or compensated based on site-specific analysis.	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the Southern Bighorns ERMA.
61.61	X	LR.7.1-7.7	Manage the South Bighorns area as a ROW avoidance area. Co-locate ROW authorizations whenever possible.	Manage the South Bighorns RMZ as a ROW avoidance area.	The South Bighorns area is open to ROW authorizations.	Manage the Middle Fork of the Powder River SRMA and the Southern Bighorns ERMA as ROW avoidance areas.
61.62	X	LR.7.1-7.7	The South Bighorns area is open to renewable energy development.	Manage the South Bighorns RMZ as a renewable energy avoidance area.	The South Bighorns area is open to renewable energy development.	Same as Alternative B.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
6163	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Manage the South Bighorns area as VRM Classes II, III, and IV.	Manage the South Bighorns RMZ as VRM Class II.	Same as Alternative A.	Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
6164	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in the South Bighorns area. Implement Travel management plans in areas within this area.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in the South Bighorns RMZ.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails in the South Bighorns area. Maintain implemented travel management plans.	Manage VRM in the Southern Bighorns ERMA consistent with other resource objectives. Manage the Middle Fork of the Powder River SRMA as VRM Class II.
Canyon Creek Area						
6165	X	LR:7.1-7.9	The Canyon Creek area is contained within the West Slope SRMA.	Manage Canyon Creek area as an SRMA (3,675 acres) with a community recreation strategy for the protection of the recreation outcomes and setting prescriptions (Map 76) (Appendix O).	Do not manage the Canyon Creek area as an RMA.	Same as Alternative B.
6166	X	LR:7.1-7.9	Manage the Canyon Creek area for motorized and nonmotorized dispersed recreation.	Manage the Canyon Creek SRMA for nonmotorized recreation opportunities such as hiking, fishing, nature viewing, and wildlife viewing so that recreationists report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes listed in Appendix O.	Manage the Canyon Creek area to address use and user conflicts, public health and safety, and resource protection.	Same as Alternative B.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
61.67	X	LR:7.1-7.9	Emphasize opportunities for recreational access to the Canyon Creek area.	Emphasize opportunities for recreational access to the Canyon Creek SRMA.	Opportunities for recreational access in the Canyon Creek area will only be to address use and user conflicts, public health and safety, or resource protection.	Same as Alternative B.
61.68	X	LR:7.1-7.9	Consider the acquisition of legal and/or physical access for hunting, fishing, and camping in the Canyon Creek area.	Acquire legal and physical access to maximize recreational opportunities in the Canyon Creek SRMA.	Acquisition of legal and/or physical access in the Canyon Creek area will only be to address use and user conflicts, public health and safety, or resource protection.	Same as Alternative B.
61.69	X	LR:7.1-7.9 LR:8.1	Develop facilities necessary for site protection and visitor management in the Canyon Creek area. Facilities may include fire rings, comfort stations, fencing, parking areas, road improvements and vehicle barriers, and trail and bridge repair, depending on the needs of the specific site.	Develop facilities to enhance recreation and visitor services for the following areas in the Canyon Creek SRMA: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Looping hiking trails in Canyon Creek and off of Smilo Road.• Trailhead at Canyon Creek and Smilo Road.• Other sites will be determined on a case-by-case basis.	Facility development to maximize recreational opportunities in the Canyon Creek area will be a low priority. Facility development will only be in response to use and user conflicts, public health and safety, or to address resource protection.	Same as Alternative B.
61.70	X	LR:7.1-7.9	Apply a NSO restriction on the Canyon Creek area. Review mineral leases on a case-by-case basis and apply mitigation through activity level planning.	Apply a NSO restriction on the Canyon Creek SRMA.	The Canyon Creek area is open to mineral leasing subject to standard protection measures.	Apply a CSU stipulation on the Canyon Creek SRMA.
61.71	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the Canyon Creek area such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and development, and	Prohibit surface-disturbing activities in the Canyon Creek SRMA such as geophysical exploration (except casual use), salable minerals	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the Canyon Creek area such as geophysical exploration (including casual use), salable minerals exploration and	Same as Alternative B.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
			construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat) on a case-by-case basis.	exploration and development, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).	exploration and development, and construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat) if the effects can be avoided, minimized and/or compensated based on site-specific analysis.	development, and construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat) if the effects can be avoided, minimized and/or compensated based on site-specific analysis.
61.72	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Manage the Canyon Creek area as a ROW avoidance area. Co-locate ROW whenever possible.	Manage the Canyon Creek SRMA as a ROW avoidance area.	The Canyon Creek area is open to ROW authorizations.	Same as Alternative B.
61.73	X	LR:7.1-7.7	The Canyon Creek area is open to renewable energy development.	Manage the Canyon Creek SRMA as a renewable energy avoidance area.	The Canyon Creek area is open to renewable energy development.	Same as Alternative B.
61.74	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Manage the Canyon Creek area as VRM Classes II, III, and IV.	Manage the Canyon Creek SRMA as VRM Class II.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative B.
61.75	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in the Canyon Creek area.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in the Canyon Creek SRMA.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails in the Canyon Creek area.	Same as Alternative B.
Red Canyon Creek Area						
61.76	X	LR:7.1-7.7	The Red Canyon Creek area is contained within the Worland ERMA.	Manage Red Canyon Creek as an SRMA (8,435 acres) with a community recreation strategy for the protection of the recreation outcomes and setting prescriptions (Map 76) (Appendix O).	Do not manage the Red Canyon Creek area as an RMA.	Manage the Red Canyon Creek as an ERMA (8,435 acres).
61.77	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Manage the Red Canyon Creek area to address use and user conflicts, public health and safety, and resource protection.	Manage the Red Canyon Creek SRMA for motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities such as hiking, wildlife	Manage the Red Canyon Creek area to address use and user conflicts, public health and safety, and resource protection.	Manage the Red Canyon Creek ERMA to maximize back country recreational opportunities and to address use and user

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				viewing, and nature viewing so that recreationists report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes listed in Appendix O.		conflicts, public health and safety, resource protection, and for desired recreation setting character conditions as listed in Appendix O.
61.78	X	LR:7.1-7.7 LR:8.1	Consider establishing trailheads in the Red Canyon Creek area consistent with an overall objective to emphasize primitive recreation.	Same as Alternative A.	Consider establishing trailheads in Red Canyon Creek area only to address use and user conflict, public health and safety, or resource protection.	Consider establishing trailheads in the Red Canyon Creek ERMA consistent with an overall objective to emphasize primitive recreation.
61.79	X	LR:7.4-7.7	Review mineral leases on a case-by-case basis. The Red Canyon Creek area is available for locatable mineral entry. Authorize mineral materials disposal and/or free use permits. Apply mitigation through activity level planning.	Apply a NSO restriction on the Red Canyon Creek SRMA.	The Red Canyon Creek area is open to mineral leasing subject to standard protection measures.	Review mineral leases on a case-by-case basis. The Red Canyon Creek ERMA is available for locatable mineral entry. Authorize mineral materials disposal and/or free use permits. Apply mitigation through activity level planning.
61.80	X	LR:7.4-7.7	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the Red Canyon Creek area such as geophysical exploration and construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat) on a case-by-case basis.	Prohibit surface-disturbing activities in the Red Canyon Creek SRMA such as geophysical exploration (except casual use) and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the Red Canyon Creek area such as geophysical exploration (including casual use) and construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife).	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the Red Canyon Creek ERMA.
61.81	X	LR:7.4-7.7	Co-locate ROW whenever possible in the Red Canyon Creek area.	Manage the Red Canyon Creek SRMA as a ROW avoidance area.	The Red Canyon Creek area is open to new ROW authorizations.	Manage the Red Canyon Creek ERMA as a ROW avoidance area.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
61.82	X	LR:7.4-7.7	The Red Canyon Creek area is open to renewable energy development.	Manage the Red Canyon Creek SRMA as a renewable energy avoidance area.	The Red Canyon Creek area is open to renewable energy development.	Manage the Red Canyon Creek ERMA as a renewable energy avoidance area.
61.83	X	LR:7.4-7.7	Manage the Red Canyon Creek area as VRM Class II.	Same as Alternative A.	Manage the Red Canyon Creek area as VRM Class IV.	Manage the Red Canyon Creek ERMA as VRM Classes II and III.
61.84	X	LR:7.4-7.7	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in the Red Canyon Creek area.	Same as Alternative A.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails in the Red Canyon Creek area.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in the Red Canyon Creek area.
The Rivers Area						
61.85	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Manage the North and South Forks of the Shoshone, the Shoshone, and the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone Rivers as The Rivers SRMA (18,247 acres).	Manage the North and South Forks of the Shoshone, the Shoshone, and the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone Rivers, including a ½ mile buffer on either side, as The Rivers SRMA (18,247 acres) with a destination recreation strategy for the protection of the recreation outcomes and setting prescriptions (Map 76) (Appendix O).	Do not manage the North and South Forks of the Shoshone, the Shoshone, and the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone Rivers areas as an RMA.	Same as Alternative B.
61.86	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Manage The Rivers SRMA for recreational benefit.	Manage The Rivers SRMA for motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities such as fishing, floating, hunting, hiking, and nature viewing so that recreationists report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes listed in Appendix O.	Manage the Rivers area to address use and user conflicts, public health and safety, and resource protection.	Same as Alternative B.
						Same as Alternative D.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
61.87	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Manage lands within 1 mile of the Shoshone, Greybull, and Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone Rivers as avoidance areas for construction of above ground powerlines.	Manage lands within 1 mile of the Shoshone, Greybull, and Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone Rivers as avoidance areas for construction of above ground powerlines.	Allow construction of above ground powerlines within 1 mile of the Shoshone, Greybull, and Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone Rivers.	Manage lands within 1 mile of the Shoshone and Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone Rivers as avoidance areas for construction of above ground powerlines, except in designated corridors.
61.88	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Retain recreational access to the North and South Forks of the Shoshone, the Shoshone, and the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone Rivers.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A, plus increase emphasis on float access and facilities where appropriate.
61.89	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Apply a NSO restriction in The Rivers SRMA on some lands within The Rivers SRMA (WGFD/BLM access areas on the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone and the North and South Forks of the Shoshone River).	Same as Alternative A.	WGFD/BLM access areas on the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone and the North and South Forks of the Shoshone Rivers are open to oil and gas leasing subject to standard protection measures.	Apply a NSO restriction on areas within ¼ mile of campgrounds, trailheads, day use areas, river access sites, and similar recreational sites (Map 78) within The Rivers SRMA.
61.90	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Prohibit surface-disturbing activities in The Rivers SRMA such as geophysical exploration (except casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).	Same as Alternative A.	Allow surface-disturbing activities in The Rivers area such as geophysical exploration (including casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife).	Allow surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife) within campgrounds, trailheads, day use areas, river access sites, and similar recreational sites and trails within The Rivers SRMA if the effects can be avoided, minimized

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
61.91	X	LR:7.1-7.7	The Rivers SRMA is open to renewable energy development.	Manage The Rivers SRMA as a renewable energy avoidance area.	The Rivers area is open to renewable energy development.	Same as Alternative B. and/or compensated based on site-specific analysis.
61.92	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Within The Rivers SRMA, manage the North and South Forks of the Shoshone and the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone Rivers as VRM Class II and manage the Shoshone River as VRM Class III.	Manage The Rivers SRMA as VRM Class II.	Manage the North and South Forks of the Shoshone and the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone Rivers as VRM Class I and manage the Shoshone River as VRM Class III.	Same as Alternative B. and/or compensated based on site-specific analysis.
61.93	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Motorized vehicle use in The Rivers SRMA is limited to designated roads and trails for the North and South Forks of the Shoshone and the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone Rivers area; and is limited to existing roads and trails for the Shoshone River area.	Same as Alternative A.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails in the Rivers area.	Same as Alternative A. and/or compensated based on site-specific analysis.
Historic Trails Area						
61.94	X	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Manage significant segments of the Historic Trails area as an SRMA (12,065 acres) (not including NHTs) to retain their resource values.	Do not manage the Historic Trails area as an RMA. Management of historic trails resources will be under custodial recreation management addressing public health and safety, use and user conflicts, and resource protection.	Same as Alternative B. and/or compensated based on site-specific analysis.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
61.95	X	LR:7.1-7.7	See Cultural Resources and NHT alternatives for management associated with the Historic Trails area.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
World Caves (Caves in Cody FO)						
61.96	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Manage cave and karst resources as the Worland Caves SRMA.	Manage cave and karst resources as the Caves and Karst ERMA. Site-specific management actions will address issues specific to each cave(s) addressing use and user conflict, public health and safety, and resource protection.	Do not manage the cave and karst resources as an RMA. Management of cave and karst resources will address public health and safety, use and user conflicts, and resource protection.	Same as Alternative C.
61.97	X	LR:7	See Cave and Karst Resources alternatives for management of these resources.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
McCullough Peaks Area						
61.98	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Manage the McCullough Peaks under the Cody ERMA. The McCullough Peaks WSA is contained within the McCullough Peaks area. See WSA section for management prescriptions.	Manage the McCullough Peaks area as an SRMA (160.868 acres) with a destination recreation strategy for the protection of the recreation outcomes and setting prescriptions (Map 76) (Appendix O).	Do not manage the McCullough Peaks area as an RMA. Management of resources within the McCullough Peaks area will be under custodial recreation management addressing public health and safety, use and user conflicts, and resource protection.	Manage the McCullough Peaks area as an SRMA (160.838 acres) with a destination recreation strategy for the protection of the recreation outcomes and setting prescriptions (Map 78) (Appendix O).
61.99	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Manage the McCullough Peaks SRMA for motorized and nonmotorized dispersed recreation.	Manage the McCullough Peaks SRMA for motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities such as wildlife and wild horse viewing, nature viewing, horseback riding,	Manage the McCullough Peaks area to address use and user conflicts, public health and safety, and resource protection.	Same as Alternative B.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				hunting, and hiking so that recreationists report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes listed in Appendix O.		
6200	X	LR7.1-7.7	The McCullough Peaks area is open for oil and gas leasing.	Apply a NSO restriction on the McCullough Peaks SRMA.	The McCullough Peaks area is open to oil and gas leasing subject to standard protection measures.	Apply a NSO restriction on 41,653 acres within the McCullough Peaks SRMA.
6201	X	LR7.1-7.7	The McCullough Peaks area is open to ROW authorizations.	Manage the McCullough Peaks SRMA as a ROW avoidance area.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative B.
6202	X	LR7.1-7.7	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the McCullough Peaks area such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat) on a case-by-case basis.	Prohibit surface-disturbing activities in the McCullough Peaks SRMA such as geophysical exploration (except casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the McCullough Peaks area such as geophysical exploration (including casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife) on a case-by-case basis.	Same as Alternative B.
6203	X	LR7.1-7.7	The McCullough Peaks area is open to renewable energy development.	Manage the McCullough Peaks SRMA as a renewable energy avoidance area.	The McCullough Peaks area is open to renewable energy development.	Same as Alternative B.
6204	X	LR7.1-7.7	Manage the McCullough Peaks area as VRM Classes II, III, and IV.	Manage the McCullough Peaks SRMA as VRM Class II.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative B.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
6205	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in a portion the McCullough Peaks area and is limited to existing roads and trails in the remainder of the area.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in the entire area McCullough Peaks SRMA.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails in the McCullough Peaks area.	Same as Alternative B.
Basin Gardens – Basin Gardens Play Area						
6206	X	LR:7.1-7.7	The Basin Gardens Play Area is contained within the Worland ERMA where off road motorized vehicle use is tolerated.	Manage the Basin Gardens Play Area as a RMZ [1,821 acres] within the Basin Gardens SRMA.	Manage the Basin Gardens Play Area as an ERMA (4,421 acres).	Manage the Basin Gardens Play Area as a SRMA (4,421 acres) with a community recreation strategy for the protection of the recreation outcomes and setting prescriptions (Map 78) (Appendix O).
6207	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Manage the Basin Gardens Play area to address use and user conflicts, public health and safety, and resource protection.	Manage the Basin Gardens Play Area RMZ for motorized recreation opportunities such as all-terrain vehicle, motorbike, mountain bike, and other motorized and mechanized hill climbing activities so that recreationists report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes listed in Appendix O.	Manage the Basin Gardens Play Area ERMA to maximize recreational opportunities, as well as to address use and user conflicts, public health and safety, and resource protection.	Manage the Basin Gardens Play Area SRMA for motorized recreation opportunities such as all-terrain vehicle, motorbike, mountain bike, and other motorized and mechanized hill climbing activities so that recreationists report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes listed in Appendix O.
6208	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Review mineral leases on a case-by-case basis and apply mitigation through activity level planning.	Apply a NSO restriction on the Basin Gardens Play Area RMZ.	Open the Basin Gardens Play Area ERMA to mineral leasing subject to standard protection measures.	Apply a CSU stipulation on the Basin Gardens Play Area SRMA.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
6209	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Authorize mineral materials disposal in the Basin Gardens Play Area.	Prohibit mineral materials disposal in the Basin Gardens Play Area.	Same as Alternative A.	Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
6210	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the Basin Gardens Play area such as geophysical exploration and construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat) on a case-by-case basis.	Prohibit surface-disturbing activities in the Basin Gardens Play Area RMZ such as geophysical exploration (except casual use), and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the Basin Gardens Play Area ERMA such as geophysical exploration (including casual use), and construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the Basin Gardens Play Area SRMA such as geophysical exploration, and construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat) if the effects can be avoided, minimized and/or compensated based on site-specific analysis.
6211	X	LR:7.4-7.7	Manage the Basin Gardens Play area as a ROW avoidance area. Co-locate ROW whenever possible.	Manage the Basin Gardens Play Area RMZ as a ROW avoidance area.	The Basin Gardens Play Area ERMA is open to ROW authorizations.	Manage the Basin Gardens Play Area SRMA as a ROW avoidance area.
6212	X	LR:7.4-7.7	The Basin Gardens Play area is open to renewable energy development.	Manage the Basin Gardens Play Area RMZ as a renewable energy avoidance area.	The Basin Gardens Play Area ERMA is open to renewable energy development.	Manage the Basin Gardens Play Area SRMA as a renewable energy avoidance area.
6213	X	LR:7.4-7.7	Manage the Basin Gardens Play area as VRM Classes III and IV.	Manage the Basin Gardens Play Area RMZ as VRM Class III.	Same as Alternative A.	Manage VRM in the Basin Gardens Play Area SRMA consistent with other resource objectives.
6214	X	LR:7.4-7.7	Motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails in the Basin Gardens Play area.	Same as Alternative A, except 1,821 acres within the Basin Gardens Play Area RMZ are open to motorized vehicle use.	4,421 acres within the Basin Gardens Play Area ERMA are open to motorized vehicle use.	Same as Alternative B.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
Basin Gardens – Basin Gardens Area						
6215	X	LR7.1-7.7	The Basin Gardens area is contained within the Worland RMMA.	Manage the Basin Gardens area as a RMZ (17,949 acres) to be included within the Basin Gardens SRMA.	Manage the Basin Gardens as an ERMA (15,349 acres).	Manage the Basin Gardens as an ERMA (15,349 acres).
6216	X	LR7.1-7.7	Manage the Basin Gardens area to address user and user conflicts, public health and safety, and resource protection.	Manage the Basin Gardens RMZ for motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities such as hiking, nature viewing, and wildlife viewing so that recreationists report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes listed in Appendix O.	Manage the Basin Gardens ERMA to maximize recreational opportunities and to address user and user conflicts, public health and safety, and resource protection.	Manage the Basin Gardens ERMA to maximize recreational opportunities and to address user and user conflicts, public health and safety, and resource protection.
6217	X	LR7.1-7.7	Review mineral leases on a case-by-case basis and apply mitigation through activity level planning in the Basin Gardens area.	Apply a NSO restriction on the Basin Gardens RMZ.	The Basin Gardens ERMA is open to mineral leasing subject to standard protection measures.	Same as Alternative A.
6218	X	LR7.1-7.7	Authorize mineral materials disposal in the Basin Gardens area.	Prohibit mineral materials disposal in the Basin Gardens RMZ.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
6219	X	LR7.1-7.7	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the Basin Gardens area such as geophysical exploration and construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat) on a case-by-case basis.	Prohibit surface-disturbing activities in the Basin Gardens RMZ such as geophysical exploration (except casual use) and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the Basin Gardens ERMA such as geophysical exploration (including casual use) and construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife).	Same as Alternative A.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
6220	X	LR:7.4-7.7	Manage the Basin Gardens area as a ROW avoidance area. Co-locate ROW authorizations whenever possible.	Manage the Basin Gardens RMZ as a ROW avoidance area.	The Basin Gardens ERMA is open to ROW authorizations.	Same as Alternative A.
6221	X	LR:7.4-7.7	The Basin Gardens area is open to renewable energy development.	Manage the Basin Gardens RMZ as a renewable energy avoidance area.	The Basin Gardens ERMA is open to renewable energy development.	Same as Alternative B.
6222	X	LR:7.4-7.7	Manage the Basin Gardens area as VRM Classes III and IV.	Manage the Basin Gardens RMZ as VRM Class III.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative B.
6223	X	LR:7.4-7.7	Motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails in the Basin Gardens area.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in the Basin Gardens area.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails in the Basin Gardens RMZ.	Same as Alternative A.
Horse Pasture Area						
6224	X	LR:7.1-7.9	The Horse Pasture area is contained within the Worland ERMA.	Manage the Horse Pasture area as an SRMA (144 acres) with a community recreation strategy for the protection of the recreation outcomes and setting prescriptions (Map 76) (Appendix O).	Do not manage the Horse Pasture area as an RMA.	Same as Alternative B.
6225	X	LR:7.1-7.9	Manage the Horse Pasture area for motorized and nonmotorized dispersed recreation.	Manage the Horse Pasture SRMA for nonmotorized recreation opportunities such as hiking, photography, hunting, and sightseeing so that recreationists report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes listed in Appendix O.	Manage the Horse Pasture area to address use and user conflicts, public health and safety, and resource protection.	Same as Alternative B, plus manage for habitat and wildlife resources under the Big Horn River HMP/RAMP.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
6226	X	LR:7.1-7.9 LR:8.1	Consider facilities to enhance recreation and visitor services in the Horse Pasture area on a case-by-case basis.	Develop facilities to enhance recreation and visitor services in the Horse Pasture SRMA. Such facilities could include hiking trails, comfort stations, fencing, parking areas, road improvements and vehicle barriers, and trail and bridge repair.	Facility development to maximize recreational opportunities in the Horse Pasture area will be a low priority. Facility development will only be to address use and user conflicts, public health and safety, or resource protection.	Same as Alternative B.
6227	X	LR:7.1-7.9	Review mineral leases on a case-by-case basis and apply mitigation through activity level planning in the Horse Pasture area.	Apply a NSO restriction on the Horse Pasture SRMA.	The Horse Pasture area will be open to mineral entry and other mineral leasing subject to standard protection measures.	Apply a CSU stipulation on the Horse Pasture SRMA.
6228	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the Horse Pasture area such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat) on a case-by-case basis.	Prohibit surface-disturbing activities in the Horse Pasture SRMA such as geophysical exploration (except casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the Horse Pasture area such as geophysical exploration (including casual use), salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the Horse Pasture SRMA such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat) if the effects can be avoided, minimized and/or compensated based on site-specific analysis.
6229	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Co-locate ROW whenever possible in the Horse Pasture area.	Manage the Horse Pasture SRMA as a ROW avoidance area.	The Horse Pasture area is open to ROW authorizations.	Same as Alternative B.
6230	X	LR:7.1-7.7	The Horse Pasture area is open to renewable energy development.	Manage the Horse Pasture SRMA as a renewable energy avoidance area.	The Horse Pasture area is open to renewable energy development.	Same as Alternative B.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
6231	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Manage the Horse Pasture area as VRM Class III.	Manage the Horse Pasture SRMA as VRM Class II.	Same as Alternative A.	Manage VRM in the Horse Pasture SRMA consistent with other resource objectives.
6232	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails in the Horse Pasture area.	The Horse Pasture SRMA is closed to motorized vehicle use.	Same as Alternative A.	Motorized vehicle use in the Horse Pasture SRMA is limited to designated roads and trails.
Rattlesnake Ridge Area						
6233	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Manage the Rattlesnake Ridge area under the Worland ERMA.	Do not manage the Rattlesnake Ridge area as an RMA.	Manage the Rattlesnake Ridge SRMA (7,982 acres) with a community recreation strategy for motorized recreation opportunities such as all-terrain vehicle, motorcycle, and other motorized and mechanized hill climbing activities so that recreationists report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes listed in Appendix O.	Manage the Rattlesnake Ridge area as an ERMA (7,996 acres) to maximize recreational opportunities, and to address use and user conflicts, public health and safety, and resource protection.
6234	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails in the Rattlesnake Ridge area.	Same as Alternative A.	The Rattlesnake Ridge SRMA is open to motorized vehicle use.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails in the Rattlesnake Ridge ERMA.
Beck Lake Area						
6235	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Manage the Beck Lake area under the Cody ERMA.	Manage the Beck Lake area as an SRMA (6,483 acres) with a community recreation strategy for the protection of the recreation outcomes and setting prescriptions (Map).	Do not manage the Beck Lake area as an RMA. Management of resources within the Beck Lake area will be under custodial recreation management addressing public health.	Same as Alternative B.
						Same as Alternative B.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				76) (Appendix O), and safety, use and user conflicts, and resource protection, except for lands provided to the city of Cody under the R&PP.		Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
6236	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Manage the Beck Lake area for motorized and nonmotorized dispersed recreation.	Manage the Beck Lake SRMA for nonmotorized recreation opportunities to engage in mountain biking, hiking, wildlife viewing, and other activities so that recreationists report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes listed in Appendix O.	Manage the Beck Lake area to address user and user conflicts, public health and safety, and resource protection.	Manage the Beck Lake SRMA for nonmotorized and motorized recreation opportunities such as mountain biking, hiking, wildlife viewing, and other activities so that recreationists report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes listed in Appendix O.
6237	X	LR:7.1-7.7	The Beck Lake area is open to oil and gas leasing.	Apply a NSO restriction on the Beck Lake SRMA.	Same as Alternative A.	Apply a CSU stipulation on the Beck Lake SRMA.
6238	X	LR:7.1-7.7	The Beck Lake area is open to ROW authorizations.	Manage the Beck Lake SRMA as a ROW avoidance area.	Same as Alternative A.	The Beck Lake SRMA is open to ROW authorizations.
6239	X	LR:7.1-7.7	The Beck Lake area is open to renewable energy development.	Manage the Beck Lake SRMA as a renewable energy avoidance area.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative B.
6240	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the Beck Lake area such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities on a case-by-case basis.	Prohibit surface-disturbing activities in the Beck Lake area such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the Beck Lake area such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).	Same as Alternative B.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
6241	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Manage the Beck Lake area as VRM Class III.	Manage the Beck Lake SRMA as VRM Class II.	Same as Alternative A.	Manage VRM in the Beck Lake SRMA consistent with other resource objectives.
6242	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails in the Beck Lake area.	The Beck Lake SRMA is closed to motorized vehicle use.	Same as Alternative A.	Motorized vehicle use in the Beck Lake SRMA is limited to designated roads and trails.
Newton Lake Ridge Area						
6243	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Manage the Newton Lake Ridge area under the Cody ERMA.	Manage the Newton Lake Ridge area as an SRMA (1,997 acres) with a community recreation strategy for the protection of the recreation outcomes and setting prescriptions (Map 76) (Appendix O).	Do not manage the Newton Lake Ridge area as an RMA. Management of resources within the Newton Lake Ridge area will be under custodial recreation management addressing public health and safety, use and user conflicts, and resource protection.	Same as Alternative B.
6244	X	LR:7.1-7.7	Manage the Newton Lake Ridge area for motorized and nonmotorized dispersed recreation.	Manage the Newton Lake Ridge SRMA for nonmotorized recreationists to engage in mountain biking, hiking, wildlife viewing, and other activities so that affected users report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes listed in Appendix O.	Manage the Newton Lake Ridge area to address use and user conflicts, public health and safety, and resource protection.	Manage the Newton Lake Ridge SRMA for nonmotorized and motorized recreation opportunities such as mountain biking, hiking, wildlife viewing, and other activities so that recreationists report realizing a “moderate” level of recreation experience and benefit outcomes listed in Appendix O.
6245	X	LR:7.1-7.7	The Newton Lake Ridge area is open to oil and gas leasing.	Apply a NSO restriction on the Newton Lake Ridge SRMA.	The Newton Lake Ridge area is open to oil and gas leasing subject to standard protection measures.	Same as Alternative B.
						Same as Alternative D.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Recreation						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
6246	X	LR7.1-7.7	The Newton Lake Ridge area is open to ROW authorizations.	Manage the Newton Lake Ridge SRMA as a ROW avoidance area.	Same as Alternative A.	The Newton Lake Ridge SRMA is open to ROW authorizations.
6247	X	LR7.1-7.7	The Newton Lake Ridge area is open to renewable energy development.	Manage the Newton Lake Ridge SRMA as a renewable energy avoidance area.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative B.
6248	X	LR7.1-7.7	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the Newton Lake Ridge area such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities on a case-by-case basis.	Prohibit surface-disturbing activities in the Newton Lake Ridge SRMA such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the Newton Lake Ridge area such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities (including those related to development of recreation facilities or wildlife habitat).	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the Newton Lake Ridge SRMA such as geophysical exploration, salable minerals exploration and development, and construction activities on a case-by-case basis.
6249	X	LR7.1-7.7	Manage the Newton Lake Ridge area as VRM Class III.	Manage the Newton Lake Ridge SRMA as VRM Class II.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative B.
6250	X	LR7.1-7.7	Motorized vehicle use area is limited to existing roads and trails in the Newton Lake Ridge area.	The Newton Lake Ridge SRMA is closed to motorized vehicle use.	Motorized vehicle use in the Newton Lake Ridge SRMA is limited to designated roads and trails.	Same as Alternative D.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) –Lands with Wilderness Characteristics						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
GOAL LR:9				Manage lands with wilderness characteristics as appropriate, considering manageability and the context of competing resource demands.		
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES						
6251	X	X	LR:9.1	Response to wildland fires may vary from full suppression in areas where fire is undesirable, to monitoring fire behavior in areas where fire can be used as a management tool.		
6252	X	X	LR:9.1	Allow permitted livestock grazing use consistent with other resource objectives and in agreement with the <i>Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands</i> .		
6253	X	X	LR:9.1	Manage invasive species using Invasive Pest Management strategy.		
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
6254	X	X	LR:9.1	No lands with wilderness characteristics are managed to maintain their wilderness characteristics.	Manage all inventoried lands with wilderness characteristics shown on Map 79 (476,349 acres) for naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude, and primitive and unconfined recreation.	No lands with wilderness characteristics are managed to maintain their wilderness characteristics. Manage lands with wilderness characteristics consistent with other resource objectives. Do not manage the lands with wilderness characteristics for naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude, and primitive and unconfined recreation.
6255	X	X	LR:9.1	No special management prescriptions for lands with wilderness characteristics. ⁵	Manage lands with wilderness characteristics as VRM Class II, unless areas are managed as VRM Class I under another resource.	Same as Alternative A.
						Same as Alternative B.
						Same as Alternative B, except manage 47 acres in Painted Hills as VRM Class III.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) –Lands with Wilderness Characteristics						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
6256	X	X	LR:9.1	No special management prescriptions for lands with wilderness characteristics. ⁵	Evaluate existing roads and trails in lands with wilderness characteristics and close on a case-by-case basis as necessary to protect wilderness characteristics.	Same as Alternative A.
					Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in lands with wilderness characteristics.	Same as Alternative A.
					Within lands with wilderness characteristics, allow vehicle access up to 30 feet from the centerline of the road or trail for parking and necessary tasks.	Same as Alternative A.
6257	X	X	LR:9.1	No special management prescriptions for lands with wilderness characteristics. ⁵	Lands with wilderness characteristics are closed to oil and gas leasing.	Same as Alternative A.
						Same as Alternative A.
6258	X	X	LR:9.1	No special management prescriptions for lands with wilderness characteristics. ⁵	Lands with wilderness characteristics are closed to solid mineral leasing.	Same as Alternative A.
						Same as Alternative A.
6259	X	X	LR:9.1	No special management prescriptions for lands with wilderness characteristics. ⁵	Lands with wilderness characteristics are closed to mineral materials disposal.	Same as Alternative A.
						Same as Alternative A.
6260	X	X	LR:9.1	No special management prescriptions for lands with wilderness characteristics. ⁵	Manage lands with wilderness characteristics as ROW avoidance areas.	Same as Alternative A.
						Same as Alternative B.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) –Lands with Wilderness Characteristics						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
6261	X	X	LR:9.1	No special management prescriptions for lands with wilderness characteristics. ⁵	Lands with wilderness characteristics are closed to permitted commercial and personal-use wood cutting and seed collection. Small amounts of fuelwood or seeds for personal use may be gathered, unless specifically prohibited for any defined area.	Same as Alternative A.
6262	X	X	LR:9.1	No special management prescriptions for lands with wilderness characteristics. ⁵	Lands with wilderness characteristics are closed to road construction unless specified on a case-by-case basis.	Same as Alternative A.
6263	X	X	LR:9.1	No special management prescriptions for lands with wilderness characteristics. ⁵	Prohibit mechanical vegetation treatments in lands with wilderness characteristics, except for the minimum necessary to restore natural resource systems, and to provide for public and firefighter safety in areas with hazardous fuels. Permit the use of prescribed fire for vegetation treatments when compatible with resource management objectives of the areas. Rehabilitate fire lines and other surface disturbances associated with prescribed fire operations.	Same as Alternative A.
6264	X	X	LR:9.1	No special management prescriptions for lands with wilderness characteristics. ⁵	Allow maintenance of existing facilities in lands with wilderness characteristics.	Same as Alternative A.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) –Lands with Wilderness Characteristics						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
6265	X	X	LR:9.1	No special management prescriptions for lands with wilderness characteristics. ⁵	Allow construction of rangeland improvements, wildlife water development, and recreation facilities in lands with wilderness characteristics when short-term effects can be mitigated.	Same as Alternative A.
6266	X	X	LR:9.1	No special management prescriptions for lands with wilderness characteristics. ⁵	Allow excavation of cultural resource sites and of paleontological sites in lands with wilderness characteristics where scientific information would be collected under permit, with minimum site disturbance. Mitigate short-term effects to wilderness characteristics by collection of long-term important scientific information, controls to modes and routes of site access, and site restoration when the project is completed.	Same as Alternative A.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Livestock Grazing Management						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
GOAL LR:10	Continue ecosystem benefits of herbivory by providing opportunities for livestock grazing to support and sustain local communities consistent with goals and objectives of other resources and overall land health.					
Objectives:						
	LR:10.1			Manage livestock grazing consistent with multiple-use needs, sustained yield, and the <i>Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands</i> . Adjust management based on assessments and evaluations.		
	LR:10.2			Provide for the establishment of voluntary reserve common allotments as opportunities arise within the Planning Area to facilitate rangeland restoration, recovery, and management objectives (in accordance with existing policy, WO IM 2013-184).		
	LR:10.3			Manage levels of livestock use in a manner that strives to maintain or restore permitted use based on forage availability consistent with multiple use.		
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES						
6267	X	X	LR:10.1 LR:10.3	In cooperation, consultation, and coordination with permittees/lessees, cooperators, and interested public, develop and implement appropriate livestock grazing management actions to enhance land health, improve forage for livestock, and meet other multiple use objectives by using the <i>Wyoming Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management</i> , other appropriate BMPs (see Appendices L and W), and development of appropriate range improvements. The BLM will prioritize (1) the review of grazing permits/leases, in particular to determine if modification is necessary prior to renewal, and (2) the processing of grazing permits/leases in PHMAs. In setting workload priorities, precedence will be given to existing permits/leases in areas not meeting Land Health Standards, with focus on allotments containing riparian areas or wet meadows. The BLM may use other criteria for prioritization to respond to urgent natural resource concerns (e.g., wildfire) and legal obligations.		
6268	X	X	LR:10.1 LR:10.3	AMPs remain in effect or are revised as necessary.		
6269	X	X	LR:10.1	Retain designated stock driveway withdrawals (92,932 acres) and easements, except where no longer needed or provide comparable alternate access and routes. Other land uses within stock driveways will be considered on a case-by-case basis, so long as the proposed use will not interfere with the purpose for the withdrawal. Permit other livestock trailing on a case-by-case basis.		
6270	X	X	LR:10.1	Maintain current allotment categories shown on Map 80 (M, I, and C; see Glossary). Throughout the life of the plan, re-categorized allotments based on assessments and evaluations.		
6271	X	X	LR:10.1	Utilize a rangeland health assessment, resource monitoring, or analysis to determine if livestock grazing adjustments in amounts, kinds, or season are necessary. The NEPA analysis for renewals and modifications of livestock grazing permits/leases that include lands within PHMAs will include specific management thresholds based on Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Objectives Table and Land Health Standards (43 CFR 4180.2) and one or more defined responses that will allow the authorizing officer to make adjustments to livestock grazing that have already been subjected to NEPA analysis. GRSG Habitat Objectives Table, Land Health Standards (43 CFR 4180.2) and ecological site potential, and one or more defined responses that will allow the authorizing officer to make adjustments to livestock grazing that have already been subjected to NEPA analysis.		
6272	X	X	LR:10.1 LR:10.3	Forage supplements will be certified weed free and safe/compatible for domestic sheep, wildlife and wild horses based on allotment specific situations.		
6273	X	X	LR:10.1	Approximately 4,074 acres along the Bighorn River remain closed to livestock grazing, unless grazing is used for specific vegetation management objectives such as habitat improvement or the eradication of invasive weeds (tracts listed in Big Horn River HMP/RAMP and the Egger Tract).		

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Livestock Grazing Management						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
6274	X	X	LR:10.1	Monitor all "I" category allotments and AMPs. Treat monitoring of "M" and "C" category allotments as a low priority. Continue monitoring following any adjustments in grazing use to assure allotment management objectives are being met.	Monitor livestock grazing only on those allotments not meeting land health standards due to currently permitted livestock grazing.	Vary the intensity of livestock grazing monitoring, with higher priority given to "I" category allotments and those allotments not meeting land health standards due to current livestock grazing.
6275	X	X	LR:10.1 -10.3	The Planning Area is open to livestock grazing except in areas specifically closed to grazing, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bighorn River tracts (4,074 acres) • Campgrounds (645 acres) • Exlosures (452 acres) Manage livestock grazing to provide for protection or enhancement of other resource values.	The Planning Area is open to livestock grazing on areas where livestock grazing is not in conflict with other resource uses. In addition to areas closed to livestock grazing under Alternative A, close the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crucial winter range for elk and bighorn sheep (270,834 acres) • Greater sage-grouse Key Habitat Areas (1,232,583 acres) 	Vary the intensity of livestock grazing monitoring, with higher priority given to "I" category allotments and those allotments not meeting land health standards due to livestock grazing. The Planning Area is open to livestock grazing except in areas specifically closed to grazing, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bighorn River tracts (4,074 acres) • Campgrounds (645 acres) • Exlosures (452 acres) Manage livestock grazing to support other resource objectives and allow livestock grazing in areas closed to grazing as a tool to maintain or improve resource conditions.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Livestock Grazing Management						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
6276	X	X	LR:10.1 LR:10.3	Apportion additional sustained yield forage to meet multiple-use objectives and to satisfy suspended permitted use of permittees/lessees in the allotment where the forage is available (43 CFR 4110.1-3b).	Apportion additional sustained yield forage primarily to wild horses and wildlife.	Apportion additional sustained yield forage primarily to satisfy suspended permitted use of permittees/lessees in the allotment where the forage is available.
6277	X	X	LR:10.1 -10.3	On a case-by-case basis, allow issuance of permits/leases for livestock grazing for parcels that are not included in a grazing allotment.	Do not allow issuance of permits/leases on parcels that are not included in a grazing allotment. Allocate forage on such parcels to watershed protection, habitat, or other resource uses.	Same as Alternative A.
6278	X	X	LR:10.5	Management of reserve common allotments is not considered.	Establish and manage future reserve common allotments as opportunities arise within the Planning Area on a voluntary basis.	Do not establish reserve common allotments within the Planning Area.
						Same as Alternative B, plus establish and manage reserve common allotments on abandoned allotments on a case-by-case basis and attempt to utilize each allotment at least every five years. At the time a permittee or lessee voluntarily relinquishes or abandons a permit or lease, the BLM will consider whether the public lands where that permitted use was authorized should remain available for livestock grazing or be used for other resource management objectives, such as reserve common allotments or fire breaks.
						Same as Alternative D.
						Same as Alternative E.
						Same as Alternative F.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Livestock Grazing Management						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
6279	X	X	LR:10.1 LR:10.3	Prohibit the placement of salt, mineral, or forage supplements within ¼ mile of water, wetlands, riparian areas, reclaimed or reforested areas, or as determined by the authorized officer.	Same as Alternative A, but prohibit within a ½ mile buffer.	Allow placement of salt, mineral, or forage supplements to maximize livestock use.
6280	X	X	LR:10.1 -10.3	In cooperation with permittees and the interested public, develop or implement AMPs or grazing management agreements as necessary to meet multiple use objectives.	In cooperation with permittees and the interested public, develop or revise AMPs or grazing management agreements for all category “I” allotments and allotments not meeting <i>Wyoming Rangelands for Healthy Rangelands</i> , emphasizing meeting multiple use objectives over livestock forage availability.	In cooperation with permittees and the interested public, develop or revise AMPs and grazing management agreements emphasizing livestock forage availability while meeting multiple-use objectives.
6281	X	X	LR:10.1 -10.3	Design range improvement projects, including vegetation treatments, to meet multiple-use objectives, mitigate impacts to other resource values, and meet allotment management objectives.	In cooperation with interested public, design range improvement projects, including vegetation treatments, to maximize multiple use benefits. Strive to maximize funding by utilizing, leveraging, and partnering with outside funding sources.	In cooperation with permittees and interested public, design range improvement projects, including vegetation treatments, to maximize livestock forage use while meeting multiple-use objectives. Strive to maximize funding by utilizing, leveraging, and partnering with outside funding sources.
6282	X	X	LR:10.1 LR:10.3	Allow livestock use of produced water, meeting applicable standards on a case-by-case basis.	Do not develop livestock watering facilities with new surface discharge of produced water.	Same as Alternative A.

Detailed Alternatives**Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)**

6000 LAND RESOURCES (LR) – Livestock Grazing Management						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
6283	X	X	LR:10.1	No similar action.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A. Allotments within PHMAs, focusing on those containing riparian areas, including wet meadows, will be prioritized for field checks to help ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the grazing permits. Field checks could include monitoring for actual use, utilization, and use supervision.

**Alternative D
(Proposed RMP)****Alternative E
(Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)****Alternative F
(Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs ACEC)**

Same as Alternative A.

Same as Alternative D.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
GOAL SD:1 Protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or process, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.						
Objectives:						
SD:1.1 Utilize special designations to meet resource protection needs within appropriate geographical areas.						
SD:1.2 Provide for appropriate interpretation of sites of high public interest.						
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES						
7001	X	X	SD:1.1	A plan of operations for all locatable mineral exploration (except casual use) and development on mining claims is required in ACECs.		
			SD:1.2			
7002	X	X	SD:1.1	Allow permitted livestock grazing use, unless otherwise prohibited, in agreement with the <i>Wyoming Standards for Healthy Rangelands</i> .		
			SD:1.2			

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS – ACECs – Big Cedar Ridge ACEC						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
7003	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Manage the Big Cedar Ridge ACEC as the existing ACEC boundary (Map 84 and Appendix F; 264 acres).	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative A.
7004	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Allow the use of hand tools in the Big Cedar Ridge ACEC to collect plant fossils for research and casual use in the fossil concentration areas. Mechanized collection may be approved on a case-by-case basis.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative A.
7005	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Do not require site-specific surveys for cultural and historic resources for casual use collection of plant fossils in the fossil concentration areas of the Big Cedar Ridge ACEC.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative A.
7006	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	The Big Cedar Ridge ACEC is open to mineral leasing.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative A.
7007	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Apply a NSO restriction on the 264 acre fossil concentration area in the Big Cedar Ridge ACEC.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative A.
7008	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	The 264-acre fossil concentration area is closed to geophysical exploration.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative A.
7009	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Manage the 264-acre fossil concentration area of the Big Cedar Ridge ACEC as a ROW exclusion area. The fossil	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative A.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS – ACECS – Big Cedar Ridge ACEC						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
						Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
				concentration area is closed to ROW authorizations and the use of heavy equipment; the use and maintenance of existing ROW and existing range improvement projects is allowed.		
7010	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2		Motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails in the Big Cedar Ridge ACEC.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7011	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2		The Big Cedar Ridge ACEC is open to consideration for leasing of geothermal resources; prohibit surface-disturbing activities associated with geothermal exploration and development in the 264-acre fossil concentration area.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7012	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2		Pursue a withdrawal from appropriation under the mining laws for the Big Cedar Ridge ACEC.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7013	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2		The 264-acre fossil concentration area is closed to mineral materials disposal and related exploration and development activities.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS – ACECs – Big Cedar Ridge ACEC						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
7014	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Encourage and expand public education opportunities in the Big Cedar Ridge area. Work with museums in highlighting paleontological resources from the area.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite ACEC						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
7015	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Manage the Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite ACEC as the existing ACEC boundary (Map 84 and Appendix F; 1,798 acres).	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ³	Same as Alternative A.
7016	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in the Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite ACEC.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative A.
7017	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Prohibit surface-disturbing activities within the Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite ACEC, except the construction of roads, trails, interpretive signs, and other facilities to enhance public education and recreation, and activities allowed under a paleontological resources use permit.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative A.
7018	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Require all scientific and educational researchers studying the dinosaur tracks or working in that geologic horizon in the Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite ACEC to obtain a paleontological resources use permit.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative A.
7019	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Prohibit the use of heavy equipment to construct fire lines and the use of chemical and dye retardants in the Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite ACEC.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative A.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite ACEC						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
7020	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Close the Interpretive area of the Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite ACEC to livestock grazing.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative A.
7021	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Apply a NSO restriction for mineral leasing, exploration, and development on BLM-administered lands in the Sundance Formation of the Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite ACEC.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative A.
7022	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Pursue a withdrawal from appropriation under the mining laws for the Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite ACEC.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative A.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Sheep Mountain Anticline ACEC						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
7023	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Manage the Sheep Mountain Anticline ACEC as the existing ACEC boundary (Map 84 and Appendix F; 11,520 acres).	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7024	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in the Sheep Mountain Anticline ACEC.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7025	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Prohibit surface-disturbing activities such as geophysical exploration (except casual use), mineral materials disposal, and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation or wildlife habitat) above caves and cave passages on BLM-administered lands in the Sheep Mountain Anticline ACEC. Allow surface-disturbing activities elsewhere in the ACEC.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7026	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Pursue a withdrawal from appropriation under the mining laws for the Sheep Mountain Anticline ACEC.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7027	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Maintain existing semi-primitive motorized and primitive recreational settings. Protect the Sheep Mountain Anticline ACEC's outstanding scenic	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Sheep Mountain Anticline ACEC						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
			values while continuing to provide limited developed recreational facilities and motorized access.			
7028	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Manage the Sheep Mountain Anticline ACEC for recreational and interpretive use.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative A.
7029	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	The Sheep Mountain Anticline ACEC is open to oil and gas leasing.	The Sheep Mountain Anticline ACEC is closed to oil and gas leasing.	Same as Alternative A.	Apply a NSO restriction on the center of the Sheep Mountain Anticline and a CSU on the northern portion and the southern portion.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Spanish Point Karst ACEC						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES						
7030	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Manage the Spanish Point Karst ACEC as the existing ACEC boundary (Map 84 and Appendix F; 6,298 acres).		
7031	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Manage basal vegetative cover in the Spanish Point Karst ACEC to maximize (or maintain) ground cover in good or better ecological condition, commensurate with the potential of the ecological site.		
7032	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Pursue a withdrawal from appropriation under the mining laws for the Spanish Point Karst ACEC. The withdrawal will involve the federal mineral estate under private surface and under federal surface administered by the USFS and the BLM.		
7033	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Pursue ACEC Agreements for the cooperative management of surface activities in watersheds on USFS-administered and private lands within and adjacent to the Spanish Point Karst ACEC. To the extent possible, maintain compatible management prescriptions for these lands and those administered by the BLM.		
7034	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	The Spanish Point Karst ACEC is closed to oil and gas leasing.		
7035	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	The Spanish Point Karst ACEC is closed to geophysical exploration.		
7036	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Manage the Spanish Point Karst ACEC as a ROW avoidance area.		

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Brown/Howe Dinosaur Area ACEC and Proposed Expansion						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES						
7037	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Fence and sign quarry sites on BLM-administered lands in the Brown/Howe Dinosaur Area ACEC.		
7038	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in the Brown/Howe Dinosaur Area ACEC.		
7039	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Mitigate surface-disturbing activities in the Brown/Howe Dinosaur Area ACEC.		
7040	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Allow collection, excavation, or removal in the Brown/Howe Dinosaur Area ACEC of scientifically significant paleontological resources only under a Paleontological Resource Use Permit. Only issue permits to individuals engaged in research, museum, or educational projects that are approved by the BLM and that provide for detailed recordation, reporting, care of specimens, and availability of specimens to other scientists and museums.		
7041	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Do not sell or exchange public lands within the Brown/Howe Dinosaur Area ACEC unless such disposal would be consistent with the management objectives and would improve management capability and resource protection in the area.		
7042	X		SD:1.1	Coordinate with local stakeholders in landscape management in the Brown/Howe Dinosaur Area ACEC.		
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
7043	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Manage the Brown/Howe Dinosaur Area ACEC as the existing ACEC boundary (Map 8 ⁴ and Appendix F; 5,501 acres).	Expand the Brown/Howe Dinosaur Area ACEC to 20,734 acres (Map 8 ⁵ and Appendix F). Apply management prescriptions for the existing ACEC to the expansion areas.	Same as Alternative A (Map 86). Same as Alternative A (Map 87), plus manage the Brown/Howe Dinosaur Area ACEC as V/RM Class III.
7044	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	The Brown/Howe Dinosaur Area ACEC is open to leaseable and mineral materials disposal. Operations on oil and gas leases and mineral materials disposal are subject to the applicable provisions of the regulations (43 CFR 3100), including those set forth in 31.62.5-1, and such other terms, stipulations, and conditions as the authorized officer deems	The Brown/Howe Dinosaur Area ACEC is closed to mineral leasing and mineral materials disposal.	Same as Alternative A. Same as Alternative B.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Brown/Howe Dinosaur Area ACEC and Proposed Expansion						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				necessary to avoid significant disturbance of the land surface or impairment of the area's natural, educational, and scientific research values, including paleontological study, excavation, and interpretation.		
7045	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Allow minor ROW authorizations and other minor surface-disturbing activities in the Brown/Howe Dinosaur Area ACEC if they are preceded by a paleontological sensitivity survey and, if necessary, are monitored during construction.	Manage the Brown/Howe Dinosaur Area ACEC as a ROW avoidance area.	Same as Alternative A.
				Management of surface-disturbing activities emphasizes avoiding impairment of the management objectives and existing values, while protecting the integrity of fossil-bearing material in the area.	Allow minor ROW authorizations and other minor surface-disturbing activities in the Brown/Howe Dinosaur Area ACEC. Require an on-the-ground survey prior to approval of surface-disturbing activities or land-disposal actions and monitor surface-disturbing activities for PFYC 3 through 5 formations in accordance with policy. Management of surface-disturbing activities emphasizes avoiding impairment of the management objectives and existing values, while protecting the integrity of fossil-bearing material in the area.	Same as Alternative B.
7046	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	On a case-by-case basis, pursue a withdrawal from appropriation under the mining laws for ACECs and special status species habitat.	Pursue a withdrawal from appropriation under the mining laws for the Brown/Howe Dinosaur Area ACEC.	Same as Alternative A.
						Same as Alternative A.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Carter Mountain ACEC and Proposed Expansion						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
7047	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Manage the Carter Mountain ACEC as the existing ACEC boundary (Map 84 and Appendix F; 10,867 acres).	Expand the Carter Mountain ACEC to 16,573 acres (Map 85 and Appendix F).	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7048	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Restrict the use of heavy equipment in the Carter Mountain ACEC during fire suppression operations to protect fragile soils and alpine tundra. Prescribed fire may be used as appropriate to accomplish identified multiple use management objectives.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7049	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Maintain existing public access opportunities in the Carter Mountain ACEC. Pursue additional access on a case-by-case basis.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7050	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Approximately 840 acres in the Carter Mountain ACEC are identified for possible acquisition to improve management through consolidation of land ownership.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7051	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Manage the Carter Mountain ACEC as a ROW avoidance area. If additional ROW authorizations are required, the effects will be intensively mitigated.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Carter Mountain ACEC and Proposed Expansion						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
7052	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in the Carter Mountain ACEC.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative A.
7053	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Manage visual resources in the Carter Mountain ACEC as VRM Class II (Map 84 and Appendix F).	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative A.
7054	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Prohibit surface-disturbing activities such as exploration and development of leasable minerals, geophysical exploration, and ROW construction on slopes of more than 7 percent in the Carter Mountain ACEC for the protection of fragile soils and alpine tundra.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Allow surface-disturbing activities other than mineral leasing or ROWs if the effects can be avoided, minimized and/or compensated based on site-specific analysis for the protection of alpine tundra.
7055	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Require approval before snow can be removed from BLM-administered roads in big game crucial winter range in the Carter Mountain ACEC. The purpose is to minimize disturbance of the animals during periods when wildlife are under high stress.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative A.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Carter Mountain ACEC and Proposed Expansion						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
7056	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in the Carter Mountain ACEC with a seasonal closure from November 15 – June 15 or later if unfavorable weather or road conditions exist that could create resource damage.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative A, except seasonal closures are subject to the travel management plan.
7057	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Coordinate with local stakeholders in landscape management in the Carter Mountain ACEC.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative A.
7058	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	The Carter Mountain ACEC is open to mineral leasing and mineral materials disposal, subject to standard mitigation guidelines (Appendix F).	The Carter Mountain ACEC is closed to mineral leasing and mineral materials disposal.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	The Carter Mountain ACEC is closed to mineral leasing and open to mineral materials disposal.
7059	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	The Carter Mountain ACEC is available for locatable mineral entry. Require a plan of operations for all locatable mineral exploration (except casual use) and development.	Pursue a withdrawal from appropriation under the mining laws for the Carter Mountain ACEC.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Pursue a withdrawal from appropriation under the mining laws for 4,998 acres of the Carter Mountain ACEC.
7060	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Prohibit the construction of recreational sites in the Carter Mountain ACEC.	Consider construction of recreational facilities in the Carter Mountains ACEC to address visitor health and safety, use and user conflicts, and resource protection.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Five Springs Falls ACEC and Proposed Expansion						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
7061	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Manage the Five Springs Falls ACEC as the existing ACEC boundary (Map 84 and Appendix F; 163 acres).	Expand the Five Springs Falls ACEC to 1,809 acres (Map 85 and Appendix F). Any management prescriptions for the existing ACEC apply to the expansion area unless otherwise noted.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7062	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	During fire suppression operations, restrict the use of heavy equipment within the Five Springs Falls ACEC. Use prescribed fire as appropriate to accomplish identified multiple use management objectives.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7063	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Manage the Five Springs Falls ACEC as a ROW avoidance area. If additional ROW are required, mitigate the effects.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7064	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Pursue a withdrawal from appropriation under the mining laws for the Five Springs Falls ACEC.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7065	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Do not allow climbing, except for the purposes of approved monitoring and research, on the cliff that forms Five Springs Falls.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7066	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Prohibit surface-disturbing activities in the Five Springs Falls ACEC such as geophysical exploration (except casual	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ³

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Five Springs Falls ACEC and Proposed Expansion						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
			use) and construction activities (except those related to development of recreation or interpretation of rare plants).			
7067	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	The Five Springs Falls ACEC is open to exploration and development of saleable and leasable minerals with a NSO restriction.	The Five Springs Falls ACEC is closed to mineral materials disposal and mineral leasing.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	The Five Springs Falls ACEC is closed to mineral materials disposal and mineral leasing.
7068	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in the Five Springs Falls ACEC.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative A.

Alternative F
(Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)

Alternative E
(Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)

Alternative D
(Proposed RMP)

Alternative E
(Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)

Alternative F
(Greater Sage-Grouse PHIMAs ACEC)

Alternative F
(Greater Sage-Grouse PHIMAs ACEC)

Alternative E
(Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)

Alternative D
(Proposed RMP)

Alternative E
(Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)

Alternative F
(Greater Sage-Grouse PHIMAs ACEC)

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs –Little Mountain ACEC and Proposed Expansion						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
7069	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Manage the Little Mountain ACEC within the existing ACEC boundary (Map 84 and Appendix F; 21,476 acres). Additionally, a portion of the Little Mountain area is within the Craig Thomas Little Mountain SMA, which is managed in accordance with multiple use principles consistent with other resource objectives.	Expand the Little Mountain ACEC to 72,051 acres (Map 85 and Appendix F). Management prescriptions for the existing ACEC apply to the expansion area. The Little Mountain ACEC boundary is same as that of the Craig Thomas Little Mountain SMA.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵ Same as Alternative A for the Craig Thomas Little Mountain SMA.	Same as Alternative A, plus apply specific management to 21,476 additional acres in the Craig Thomas Little Mountain SMA.
7070	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	During fire suppression operations, restrict the use of heavy equipment over important caves and cave passages within the Little Mountain ACEC.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative A for the Little Mountain ACEC and the Craig Thomas Little Mountain SMA.
7071	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Provide warnings as appropriate and establish precautions regarding safety hazards in the Little Mountain ACEC. For example, erect safety fencing and signs at abandoned mines in the ACEC warning the public of health and safety hazards posed by radioactivity at uncovered mine entrances and adits.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative A for the Little Mountain ACEC and the Craig Thomas Little Mountain SMA.
7072	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in the Little Mountain ACEC.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative A for the Little Mountain ACEC and the Craig Thomas Little Mountain SMA.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs –Little Mountain ACEC and Proposed Expansion						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
7073	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Manage the Little Mountain ACEC as a ROW avoidance area. If additional ROW are required, mitigate the effects.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative A for the Little Mountain ACEC and the Craig Thomas Little Mountain SMA. Manage the Craig Thomas Little Mountain SMA as a renewable energy exclusion area.
7074	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	The Little Mountain ACEC is open to oil and gas leasing (21,477 acres).	The Little Mountain ACEC is closed to oil and gas leasing (89,146 acres of federal mineral estate).	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B for the Little Mountain ACEC (21,477 acres of federal mineral estate). Apply a CSU stipulation to portions of the Craig Thomas Little Mountain SMA (19,327 acres of federal mineral estate) and manage the remainder as closed to oil and gas leasing (58,970 acres of federal mineral estate). Allow geophysical exploration in the SMA.
7075	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	On a case-by-case basis, pursue a withdrawal from appropriation under the mining laws for ACECs and special status species habitat.	Pursue a withdrawal from appropriation under the mining laws for a portion (24,083 acres) of the Little Mountain ACEC.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative A. Same as Alternative B.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs –Upper Owl Creek ACEC and Proposed Expansion						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
7076	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Manage the Upper Owl Creek ACEC as the existing ACEC boundary (Map 84 and Appendix F; 13,758 acres).	Expand the Upper Owl Creek ACEC to 32,733 acres (Map 85 and Appendix F). Apply any management prescriptions for the existing ACEC to the expansion area.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative A.
7077	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in the Upper Owl Creek ACEC.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative A.
7078	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Limit or prohibit surface-disturbing activities in the Upper Owl Creek ACEC to protect fragile soils, alpine tundra, important wildlife habitat, and scenic values (also see Appendix F).	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative A.
7079	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Pursue a withdrawal from appropriation under the mining laws for the Upper Owl Creek ACEC.	Pursue a withdrawal from appropriation under the mining laws for the existing Upper Owl Creek ACEC and a portion of the proposed expansion area (13,016 acres).	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Pursue withdrawals from appropriation under the mining laws for portions of the ACEC on a case-by-case basis.
7080	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Require a detailed activity plan before approval of any proposal for major surface-disturbing activity in the Upper Owl Creek ACEC.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative A.
7081	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	The Upper Owl Creek ACEC is open for future ROW authorizations.	Manage the Upper Owl Creek ACEC as a ROW avoidance area.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Manage the Upper Owl Creek ACEC as a ROW avoidance area.

Detailed Alternatives**Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)**

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs –Upper Owl Creek ACEC and Proposed Expansion						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
7082	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Coordinate with local stakeholders in landscape management.	Same as Alternative A.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
7083	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	The Upper Owl Creek ACEC is open to oil and gas leasing with a NSO restriction.	The Upper Owl Creek ACEC is closed to oil and gas leasing.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC) The Upper Owl Creek ACEC is closed to oil and gas leasing.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Chapman Bench ACEC						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
7084	X	SD:1.1	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Designate Chapman Bench as an ACEC (Map 85; 23,326 acres).	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative C, except manage a portion of the Chapman Bench area as the Chapman Bench Management Area (3,425 acres of BLM-administered surface ownership).
7085	X	SD:1.1	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Manage the Chapman Bench ACEC for the retention, enhancement, and success of the greater sage-grouse, mountain plover, and long-billed curlew.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Manage the Chapman Bench Management Area for the retention and success of the mountain plover, long-billed curlew, and other sensitive species habitat.
7086	X	SD:1.1	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Motorized and mechanized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails in the Chapman Bench ACEC.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Manage motorized vehicle use in the Chapman Bench Management Area consistent with other resource objectives.
7087	X	SD:1.1	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	The Chapman Bench ACEC is closed to mineral materials disposal and mineral leasing.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	The Chapman Bench Management Area is closed to mineral materials disposal and open to mineral leasing with a NSO restriction.
7088	X	SD:1.1	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Pursue a withdrawal from appropriation under the mining laws for the Chapman Bench ACEC.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Pursue a withdrawal from appropriation under the mining laws for the Chapman Bench Management Area.
7089	X	SD:1.1	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Prohibit surface-disturbing activities in the Chapman Bench ACEC.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Allow surface-disturbing activities in the Chapman Bench Management Area consistent with other resource objectives.

Detailed Alternatives**Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)**

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Chapman Bench ACEC						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
7090	X	SD:1.1	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Manage the Chapman Bench ACEC as a renewable energy avoidance area.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Manage the Chapman Bench Management Area as a renewable energy avoidance area.
7091	X	SD:1.1	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Close the Chapman Bench ACEC to geophysical exploration.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Open the Chapman Bench Management Area to geophysical exploration.
7092	X	SD:1.1	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Manage the Chapman Bench ACEC as a ROW avoidance area.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Manage the Chapman Bench Management Area as a ROW avoidance area.
7093	X	SD:1.1	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Seasonally stipulate, where feasible, vegetative treatments, invasive, nonnative pest species control, fuels management, and maintenance of existing facilities in the Chapman Bench ACEC.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Stipulate, where feasible, vegetative treatments, invasive species control, fuels management, and maintenance of existing facilities in the Chapman Bench Management Area.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Clarks Fork Basin/Polecat Bench West Paleontological Area ACEC						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
7094	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Do not designate the Clarks Fork Basin/Polecat Bench area as an ACEC.	Designate the Clarks Fork Basin/Polecat Bench area as an ACEC (Map 85 and Appendix F; 23,895 acres).	Same as Alternative A. Same as Alternative A. Part of the Clarks Fork Basin/Polecat Bench area (4,973 acres) is within the proposed PETM ACEC. See the PETM ACEC section for management prescriptions in this area.
7095	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Fence excavation sites on BLM-administered lands within the ACEC.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵ Same as Alternative C.
7096	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Manage the Clarks Fork Basin/Polecat Bench ACEC as a renewable energy exclusion area.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵ Same as Alternative C.
7097	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in the Clarks Fork Basin/Polecat Bench ACEC.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵ Same as Alternative C.
7098	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Avoid or prohibit surface-disturbing activities in the Clarks Fork Basin/Polecat Bench ACEC.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵ Same as Alternative C.
7099	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Prohibit the use, occupation, construction, or maintenance of facilities within the Clarks Fork Basin/Polecat Bench ACEC that are inconsistent with the management direction and objectives for the area.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵ Same as Alternative C.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Clarks Fork Basin/Polecat Bench West Paleontological Area ACEC						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
7.100	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	The Clarks Fork Basin/Polecat Bench ACEC is closed to mineral materials disposal and mineral leasing.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative C.
7.101	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Pursue a withdrawal from appropriation under the mining laws for the Clarks Fork Basin/Polecat Bench ACEC.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative C.
7.102	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	The Clarks Fork Basin/Polecat Bench ACEC is closed to geophysical exploration.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative C.
7.103	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Allow collection, excavation, or removal of scientifically important paleontological resources in the Clarks Fork Basin/Polecat Bench ACEC only under a Paleontological Resource Use Permit. Only issue permits to individuals engaged in research, museum, or educational projects that are approved by the BLM and that provide for detailed recordation, reporting, care of specimens, and availability of specimens to other scientists and museums.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative C.
7.104	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Allow minor ROW authorizations and other minor surface-disturbing activities in the Clarks Fork Basin/Polecat Bench ACEC if they are preceded by a	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative C.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Clarks Fork Basin/Polecat Bench West Paleontological Area ACEC								
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)		
				paleontological sensitivity survey and, if necessary, are monitored during construction. Management of surface-disturbing activities emphasizes avoiding impairment of the management objectives and existing values, while protecting the integrity of fossil-bearing material in the area.		Alternative D (Proposed RMP)	Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)	Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PH/MAs ACEC)

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Clarks Fork Canyon ACEC						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
7.105	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Do not designate the Clarks Fork Canyon area as an ACEC.	Designate the Clarks Fork Canyon area as an ACEC (Map 85 and Appendix F; 12,249 acres).	Same as Alternative A.
7.106	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	A portion (1,211 acres) of the Clarks Fork Canyon ACEC is closed to motorized and mechanized vehicle use and the remainder is limited to designated roads and trails. Continue to implement the seasonal closure within the Bald Ridge Area.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7.107	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Prohibit surface-disturbing activities in the Clarks Fork Canyon ACEC.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7.108	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	The Clarks Fork Canyon ACEC is closed to mineral materials disposal and mineral leasing.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7.109	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Pursue a withdrawal from appropriation under the mining laws for the Clarks Fork Canyon ACEC.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7.110	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Manage the Clarks Fork Canyon ACEC as a renewable energy exclusion area.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7.111	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	The Clarks Fork Canyon ACEC is closed to geophysical exploration.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Clarks Fork Canyon ACEC

Record # C¹ W² Goal/ Obj. Alternative A (Current Management)

Alternative B (Least Resource Use)

Alternative C (More Resource Use)

Alternative D (Proposed RMP)

Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)

Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs ACEC)

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE

7.105 SD:1.1 SD:1.2 Do not designate the Clarks Fork Canyon area as an ACEC.

7.106 SD:1.1 SD:1.2 No ACEC currently exists.⁵

7.107 SD:1.1 SD:1.2 No ACEC currently exists.⁵

7.108 SD:1.1 SD:1.2 No ACEC currently exists.⁵

7.109 SD:1.1 SD:1.2 No ACEC currently exists.⁵

7.110 SD:1.1 SD:1.2 No ACEC currently exists.⁵

7.111 SD:1.1 SD:1.2 No ACEC currently exists.⁵

Designate the Clarks Fork Canyon area as an ACEC (Map 87 and Appendix F; 4,746 acres).

No ACEC would be designated.⁵

Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in the Clarks Fork Canyon ACEC. Continue to implement the seasonal closure within the Bald Ridge Area.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Clarks Fork Canyon ACEC						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
7.112	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Manage the Clarks Fork Canyon ACEC as a ROW avoidance area.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7.113	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Allow and seasonally stipulate, where feasible, vegetative/silviculture treatments, invasive, nonnative pest species control, fuels management, and maintenance of existing facilities.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Foster Gulch Paleontological Area ACEC						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
7.114	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Do not designate the Foster Gulch Paleontological Area as an ACEC.	Designate the Foster Gulch Paleontological Area as an ACEC (Map 85 and Appendix F; 27,302 acres).	Same as Alternative A. Part of the Foster Gulch Paleontological area (4,975 acres) is within the proposed PETM ACEC. See the PETM ACEC section for management prescriptions in this area.
7.115	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Fence excavation sites on BLM-administered lands within the Foster Gulch Paleontological Area ACEC.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7.116	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Manage the Foster Gulch Paleontological Area ACEC as a renewable energy avoidance area.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7.117	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in the Foster Gulch Paleontological Area ACEC.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7.118	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Avoid or prohibit surface-disturbing activities in the Foster Gulch Paleontological Area ACEC.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7.119	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Prohibit the use, occupation, construction, or maintenance of facilities within the Foster Gulch Paleontological Area ACEC that are inconsistent with the management direction and objectives for the area.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵

Alternative D.

Alternative B.

Alternative A.

Alternative C.

Alternative E.

Alternative F.

PHIMAs ACEC)

Alternative E.

Alternative B.

Alternative C.

Alternative F.

PHIMAs ACEC)

Alternative F.

Alternative B.

Alternative C.

Alternative F.

PHIMAs ACEC)

Alternative F.

Alternative B.

Alternative C.

Alternative F.

PHIMAs ACEC)

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Foster Gulch Paleontological Area ACEC						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
7.120	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	The Foster Gulch Paleontological Area ACEC is closed to mineral materials disposal mineral leasing.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative C.
7.121	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Pursue a withdrawal from appropriation under the mining laws for the Foster Gulch Paleontological Area ACEC.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative C.
7.122	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	The Foster Gulch Paleontological Area ACEC is closed to geophysical exploration.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative C.
7.123	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Allow collection, excavation, or removal of scientifically important paleontological resources in the Foster Gulch Paleontological Area ACEC only under a Paleontological Resource Use Permit. Only issue permits to individuals engaged in research, museum, or educational projects that are approved by the BLM and that provide for detailed recordation, reporting, care of specimens, and availability of specimens to other scientists and museums.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative C.
7.124	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Allow minor surface-disturbing activities in the Foster Gulch Paleontological Area ACEC if they are preceded by a paleontological sensitivity	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative C.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Foster Gulch Paleontological Area ACEC						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				survey and, if necessary, are monitored during construction. Management of surface-disturbing activities emphasizes avoiding impairment of the management objectives and existing values, while protecting the integrity of fossil-bearing material in the area.		Alternative D (Proposed RMP)

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed McCullough Peaks South Paleontological Area ACEC						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
7.125	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Do not designate the McCullough Peaks South Paleontological Area as an ACEC.	Designate the McCullough Peaks South Paleontological Area as an ACEC (Map 85 and Appendix F; 6,994 acres).	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A. Part of the McCullough Peaks South Paleontological Area (4,959 acres) is within the proposed PETM ACEC. See the PETM ACEC section for management prescriptions in this area.
7.126	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	The McCullough Peaks South Paleontological Area ACEC is closed to mineral leasing.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative C.
7.127	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Pursue a withdrawal from appropriation under the mining laws for the McCullough Peaks South Paleontological Area ACEC.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative C.
7.128	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	The McCullough Peaks South Paleontological Area ACEC is closed to mineral materials disposal.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative C.
7.129	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Fence excavation sites on BLM-administered lands in the McCullough Peaks South Paleontological Area ACEC.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative C.
7.130	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Manage the McCullough Peaks South Paleontological Area ACEC as a renewable energy avoidance area.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative C.
7.131	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in the McCullough Peaks South Paleontological Area ACEC.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative C.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed McCullough Peaks South Paleontological Area ACEC						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
7.132	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Avoid or prohibit surface-disturbing activities in the McCullough Peaks South Paleontological Area ACEC.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative C.
7.133	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Prohibit the use, occupation, construction, or maintenance of facilities within the McCullough Peaks South Paleontological Area ACEC that are inconsistent with the management direction and objectives for the area.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative C.
7.134	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	The McCullough Peaks South Paleontological Area ACEC is closed to geophysical exploration.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative C.
7.135	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Allow collection, excavation, or removal of scientifically important paleontological resources in the McCullough Peaks South Paleontological Area ACEC only under a Paleontological Resource Use Permit. Only issue permits to individuals engaged in research, museum, or educational projects that are approved by the BLM and that provide for detailed recordation, reporting, care of specimens, and availability of specimens to other scientists and museums.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative C.

Detailed Alternatives**Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)**

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed McCullough Peaks South Paleontological Area ACEC						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
7136	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Manage the McCullough Peaks South Paleontological Area ACEC as a ROW avoidance area. Allow minor ROW authorizations and other minor surface-disturbing activities if they are preceded by a paleontological sensitivity survey and, if necessary, are monitored during construction. Management of surface-disturbing activities emphasizes avoiding impairment of the management objectives and existing values, while protecting the integrity of fossil-bearing material in the area.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative C.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 Special Designations (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Rainbow Canyon ACEC						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
7.137	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Do not designate the Rainbow Canyon area as an ACEC.	Designate the Rainbow Canyon area as an ACEC (Map 85 and Appendix F; 1,433 acres).	Same as Alternative A.
7.138	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Fence excavation sites on BLM-administered lands within the Rainbow Canyon ACEC.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7.139	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Manage the Rainbow Canyon ACEC as a renewable energy avoidance area.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7.140	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in the Rainbow Canyon ACEC.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7.141	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Avoid or prohibit surface-disturbing activities in the Rainbow Canyon ACEC.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7.142	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Prohibit the use, occupation, construction, or maintenance of facilities within the Rainbow Canyon ACEC that are inconsistent with the management direction and objectives for the area.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7.143	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	The Rainbow Canyon ACEC is closed to mineral materials disposal and mineral leasing.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7.144	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Pursue a withdrawal from appropriation under the mining laws for the Rainbow Canyon ACEC.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 Special Designations (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Rainbow Canyon ACEC						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
7145	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	The Rainbow Canyon ACEC is closed to geophysical exploration.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative C.
7146	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Allow fossil collection, excavation, or removal in the Rainbow Canyon ACEC only under a permit issued by the Wyoming BLM State Director. Only issue permits to individuals engaged in research, museum, or educational projects that are approved by the BLM and that provide for detailed recordation, reporting, care of specimens, and availability of specimens to other scientists and museums.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative C.
7147	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Manage the Rainbow Canyon ACEC as a ROW avoidance area. Allow other minor surface-disturbing activities if they are preceded by a paleontological sensitivity survey and, if necessary, are monitored during construction. Management of surface-disturbing activities emphasizes avoiding impairment of the management objectives and existing values, while protecting the integrity of fossil-bearing material in the area.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative C.

Detailed Alternatives**Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)**

7000 Special Designations (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Rainbow Canyon ACEC						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
7448	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Continue to allow livestock grazing under existing regulations provided it does not disturb the natural, educational, and scientific research values of the Rainbow Canyon ACEC.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative C.

Alternative D
(Proposed RMP)

Alternative E
(Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)

Alternative F
(Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs ACEC)

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Paleocene, Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM) ACEC						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
7.149	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. Portions of ACEC proposed under Alternative D are managed as the Clarks Fork Basin/Polecat Bench, McCullough Peaks South Paleontological Area, and Foster Gulch ACECs under Alternative B. See these ACECs for management prescriptions in this area.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7.150	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7.151	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7.152	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7.153	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Paleocene, Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM) ACEC						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
7.154	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.	Apply a NSO restriction on the PETM ACEC. Grant exceptions on a case-by-case basis. The PETM ACEC is closed to mineral materials disposal.
7.155	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.	Allow geophysical exploration consistent with paleontological and other resource goals.
7.156	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.	Except for casual use collection of common paleontological resources, allow fossil collection, excavation, or removal in the PETM ACEC only under a Paleontological Resource Use Permit. Only issue permits to individuals engaged in research, museum, or educational projects that are approved by the BLM and that provide for detailed recordation, reporting, care and availability of specimens to other scientists and museums.
7.157	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.	Allow new ROW authorizations consistent with the protection of paleontological resources and other resource goals. Existing ROW or corridors are not subject to this management.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Rattlesnake Mountain ACEC						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
7158	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Do not designate the Rattlesnake Mountain area as an ACEC.	Designate the Rattlesnake Mountain area as an ACEC (Map 85 and Appendix F, 19,137 acres).	Same as Alternative A.
7159	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Rattlesnake Mountain ACEC is limited to designated roads and trails and portions are seasonally closed to motorized and mechanized vehicle use.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7160	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	The Rattlesnake Mountain ACEC is closed to mineral materials disposal and mineral leasing.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7161	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Pursue a withdrawal from appropriation under the mining laws for the Rattlesnake Mountain ACEC.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7162	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Prohibit surface-disturbing activities in the Rattlesnake Mountain ACEC.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7163	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Manage the Rattlesnake Mountain ACEC as a renewable energy exclusion area.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7164	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	The Rattlesnake Mountain ACEC is closed to geophysical exploration.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7165	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Manage the Rattlesnake Mountain ACEC as a ROW exclusion area.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Rattlesnake Mountain ACEC						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
7166	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Allow and seasonally stipulate, where feasible, vegetation/silviculture treatments, invasive, nonnative pest species control, fuels management, and maintenance of existing facilities in the Rattlesnake Mountain ACEC.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative C.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Sheep Mountain ACEC						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES						
7.167	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Coordinate with local stakeholders in landscape management.		
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
7.168	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	Do not designate the Sheep Mountain area as an ACEC.	Designate the Sheep Mountain area as an ACEC (Map 85 and Appendix F; 73,298 acres including 25,151 acres of BLM-administered surface).	Same as Alternative A.
7.169	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Manage Sheep Mountain ACEC as VRM Class II.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7.170	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Motorized and mechanized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7.171	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	The Sheep Mountain ACEC is closed to mineral materials disposal and mineral leasing.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7.172	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Pursue a withdrawal from appropriation under the mining laws for the Sheep Mountain ACEC.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵
7.173	X		SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Prohibit surface-disturbing activities in the Sheep Mountain ACEC.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵

Detailed Alternatives**Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)**

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Sheep Mountain ACEC						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
7174	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Manage the Sheep Mountain ACEC as a renewable energy avoidance area.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Manage the Sheep Mountain ACEC as a renewable energy avoidance area.
7175	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	The Sheep Mountain ACEC is closed to geophysical exploration.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Areas available for leasing are open to geophysical exploration with specific resource protection.
7176	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Manage the Sheep Mountain ACEC as a ROW avoidance area.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Manage the Sheep Mountain ACEC as a ROW avoidance area.
7177	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	Allow and seasonally stipulate, where feasible, vegetative/silviculture treatments, invasive, nonnative pest species control, fuels management, and maintenance of existing facilities in the Sheep Mountain ACEC.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Allow and stipulate, where feasible, vegetative/silviculture treatments, invasive species control, fuels management, and maintenance of existing facilities.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
7178	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7179	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B, except implement mitigation and minimization guidelines and required design features, including specific measures for greater sage-grouse (refer to Appendix L). Incorporate greater sage-grouse specific measures into project proposals as required design features or mitigation for any authorized federal action, regardless of surface ownership.
7180	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B, except incorporate greater sage-grouse specific measures into project proposals as required design features or mitigation for any authorized federal action, regardless of surface ownership. Require the development of a wildlife resource monitoring and mitigation plan to address potential impacts from mineral development on wildlife.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
7181	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7182	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7183	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
Density and Disturbance						
7184	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
In the Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC so that anthropogenic disturbances do not exceed one disturbance per 640 acres and cover less than 3 percent of total sage-grouse habitat						

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
						Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
						<p>regardless of ownership. Anthropogenic features include but are not limited to paved highways, graded gravel roads, transmission lines, substations, wind turbines, oil and gas wells, geothermal wells and associated facilities, pipelines, landfills, homes, and mines.</p> <p>Prohibit further disturbance in the Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC where the 3 percent disturbance threshold is already exceeded until enough habitat has been restored to maintain the area under this threshold (subject to valid existing rights).</p> <p>Require any development to be placed at the most distal part of the lease from the lek, or, depending on topography and other habitat aspects, in an area that is less demonstrably harmful to sage-grouse.</p>
						<p>structures on the landscape in sagebrush communities, or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the existing level of density of disturbance on the landscape so that anthropogenic disturbances do not exceed one disturbance per 640 acres within the Density and Disturbance Calculation Tool (DDCT) analysis (or best available tool) and cover less than 3 percent of sagebrush habitat. <p>Consolidate anthropogenic features from development and transmission on the landscape, regardless of land ownership patterns or whether proposed actions occur in the Greater Sage-Grouse PHMs ACEC. Allow high profile structures (higher than 12 feet) within greater sage-grouse nesting habitat on a case-by-case basis.</p>

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
Lands & Realty						
7185	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7186	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7187	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
						Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
						minimum standard necessary, and add the surface disturbance to the total disturbance in the Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC. If that disturbance exceeds 3 percent for that area, implement additional effective mitigation on a case-by-case basis to offset the resulting loss of sage-grouse habitat.
7188	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7189	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7190	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
						Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)
						minimum standard necessary, and add the surface disturbance to the total disturbance in the Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC. If that disturbance exceeds 3 percent for that area, implement additional effective mitigation on a case-by-case basis to offset the resulting loss of sage-grouse habitat.
						resulting loss of sage-grouse habitat. Use existing roads to access valid existing rights that are not yet developed to the extent practicable. Allow new ROWs to access valid, existing rights and private and state inholdings where needed.
						Where existing leases or ROWs have had some level of development (road, fence, well, etc.) and are no longer in use, reclaim the site by removing these features and restoring the habitat.
						Relocate existing designated ROW corridors crossing priority sage-grouse habitat void of any authorized ROWs, outside of the priority habitat area. If relocation is not possible, redesignate that entire corridor during the planning process.
						Retain lands in the ACEC. Consider exceptions where there is mixed ownership, and land exchanges would allow for additional or more contiguous federal

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
						Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
						Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)
7191	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7192	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7193	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
						Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAS ACEC)

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
						Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
7194	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
						Same as Alternative E.
						Any existing towers must undergo review for adverse effects. Review will include minimizing wires and other collision hazards for sage-grouse and migratory birds, as well as adverse impacts of night lights.
Renewable Energy – Wind-Energy Development						
7195	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
						Manage the Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC as a renewable energy exclusion area.
						Do not authorize new applications and proposals for wind power development inside greater sage-grouse PHMAs unless it can be sufficiently demonstrated that the development activity would not result in declines of sage-grouse populations. Sufficient demonstration of “no declines” should be coordinated with the WGFD and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
7196	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
						Prohibit the location of new meteorological towers.
						No similar action.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
Habitat Restoration/Vegetation Management						
7197	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7198	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7199	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
						Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
7200	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7201	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7202	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
						Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)
						Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAS ACEC)

these areas the desired plant community states or phases will be determined on a site-specific basis at the implementation level.

Same as Alternative E.

Require use of native seeds for restoration based on availability, adaptation (ecological site potential), and probability of success. Where probability of success or adapted seed availability is low, nonnative seeds may be used as long as they support sage-grouse habitat objectives.

habitat components.

these areas the desired plant community states or phases will be determined on a site-specific basis at the implementation level.

Same as Alternative E.

Require use of native seeds for restoration based on availability, adaptation (ecological site potential), and probability of success. Where probability of success or adapted seed availability is low, nonnative seeds may be used as long as they support sage-grouse habitat objectives.

Same as Alternative E.

Design post-restoration management to ensure long-term persistence. This could include changes in livestock grazing management, wild horse and burro management, travel management, or other activities to achieve and maintain the desired condition of the restoration effort that benefits sage-grouse.

Same as Alternative E.

Consider potential changes in climate when proposing restoration seedings using native plants. Consider collection from the warmer component of

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
7203	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7204	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7205	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7206	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7207	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
						Same as Alternative E.
						Same as Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAS ACEC)

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
						Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
						objectives on, in priority order, potential natural community within the applicable ESD, (Comnelly et al. [2000]: 977, Table 3), or other objectives that have been demonstrated to be associated with increasing sage-grouse populations.
7208	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
						If there ever is any legitimate need to reduce “thatch” in meadows, grass mowers will be used. Thus, livestock manure, trampling damage to soils, weed spread will be minimized.
Integrated Invasive Species Management						
7209	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7210	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
						Restrict activities in sage-grouse habitat that facilitate the spread of invasive plants.
						No similar action.
						Manage areas for a higher plant community state or phase (based on models in ESDs) on a case-by-case basis where site-specific management objectives determine that a higher plant community state or phase is desirable. In these areas the desired plant community states or phases will be determined on a site-

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
7211	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7212	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7213	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
Fire and Fuels Management						
7214	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
						<p>protection of sage-grouse habitat and conserve habitat quality for the species. Closely evaluate the benefits of the fuel break against the additional loss of sagebrush cover in future NEPA documents.</p> <p>Apply appropriate seasonal restrictions for implementing fuels management treatments according to the type of seasonal habitats present.</p> <p>Allow no fuels treatments in known winter range unless the treatments are designed to strategically reduce wildfire risk around or in the winter range and will maintain winter range habitat quality.</p> <p>Do not use fire to treat sagebrush in less than 12-inch precipitation zones (e.g., Wyoming big sagebrush or other xeric sagebrush species).</p> <p>However, if as a last resort and after all other treatment opportunities have been explored and site specific variables allow, the use of prescribed fire for fuel breaks that would disrupt the fuel continuity across the landscape could be</p> <p>15 percent cover, treatment should be designed to maintain or improve sagebrush habitat percent. Sagebrush treatments that maintain sagebrush canopy cover at or above 15 percent total canopy cover within the treated acres will not be considered disturbance. Treatments that reduce sagebrush canopy cover below 15 percent will be allowed if all such treated areas make up less than 20 percent of the suitable sagebrush habitat within the DDCT analysis, and any point within the treated area is within 60 meters of sagebrush habitat with 10 percent or greater canopy cover.</p> <p>Treatments to enhance sagebrush/grassland will be evaluated based upon the existing habitat quality and the functional level post-treatment.</p> <p>Although seasonal restrictions on activities may apply, vegetation treatments that do not make the habitat unsuitable for greater sage-grouse (e.g., fence lines, two-tracks, water pipelines, or stock tanks)</p>

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
						<p>considered in stands where cheatgrass is a very minor component in the understory.</p> <p>Monitor and control invasive vegetation post-treatment.</p> <p>Require use of native seeds for fuels management treatment based on availability, adaptation (site potential), and probability of success. Where probability of success or native seed availability is low, nonnative seeds may be used as long as they meet sage-grouse habitat objectives.</p> <p>Design post-fuels management projects to ensure long-term persistence of seeded or pre-treatment native plants. This may require temporary or long-term changes in livestock grazing management, wild horse and burro management, travel management, or other activities to achieve and maintain the desired condition of the fuels management project to ensure long-term persistence of seeded or pre-treatment native plants.</p>

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
						Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
						Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)
						Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAS ACEC)

habitat quality.

Limit the use of fire to treat sagebrush in areas receiving less than 12 inches of annual precipitation. Prescribed fire to reduce hazardous fuels or enhance land health in areas receiving less than 12 inches of annual precipitation could be considered after exploring other potential treatment methods and where cheatgrass is a very minor component of the understory.

Monitor and control invasive vegetation post-treatment.

Rest treated areas from grazing for three full growing seasons unless vegetation recovery dictates otherwise.

Require use of native seeds for fuels management treatment based on availability, adaptation (site potential), and probability of success.

Where probability of success or native seed availability is low, nonnative seeds may be used as long as they meet sage-grouse habitat objectives.

Design post-fuels management projects to

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
						Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
7218	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
						Same as Alternative B.
7219	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
						Same as Alternative B.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
						Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
7220	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7221	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.

Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)	Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAS ACEC)
appropriate sagebrush species/subspecies and important understory plants, relative to site potential, will be the highest priority for rehabilitation efforts.	No similar action.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
7222	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7223	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7224	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7225	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7226	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management						
7227	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵ Limit motorized vehicle use to designated roads and trails, with a seasonal closure from March 15 to June 30. ⁷ In greater sage-grouse Key Habitat Areas travel management should evaluate the need for permanent or seasonal road or area closures.	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵ Limit motorized vehicle use to designated roads and trails, with a seasonal closure from March 15 to June 30. In greater sage-grouse Key Habitat Areas travel management should evaluate the need for permanent or seasonal road or area closures.
7228	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7229	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7230	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B, except using the following travel management criteria:
						Complete activity level travel plans within 5 years of the record of decision. During activity
						Same as Alternative E, except applies to the Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs ACEC.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During subsequent travel management planning, all routes within PHMAs would undergo a route evaluation to determine its purpose and need and the potential resource and/or user conflicts from motorized travel. Where resource and/or user conflicts outweigh the purpose and need for the route, the route would be considered for closure or considered for relocation outside of sensitive greater sage-grouse habitat. • During implementation-level travel planning, threats to greater sage-grouse and their habitat would be considered when evaluating route designations and/or closures. • During subsequent travel management planning, routes within PHMAs that do not have a purpose or need would be considered for closure. • During subsequent travel management, where appropriate, designate routes in the Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC with current administrative/agency purpose or need to administrative access only. Route by route analysis (referred also as minimization or designation criteria as stated in 43 CFR 8342.1) in sage-grouse Key Habitat Areas will recognize sage-grouse habitat as a predominant management objective, as well as the priority resource to manage. The route by route analysis will determine future travel management plans within sage-grouse Key Habitat Areas, which would be designed to minimize impacts to sage-grouse habitat. Travel management planning will evaluate the need for closures of routes not desired for public purposes, including seasonal closures, and designate routes with current administrative/agency purpose or need to administrative access only as well as seasonal closures.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
						<p>travel management planning, routes within PHMAs that are duplicative parallel, or redundant would be considered for closure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During subsequent travel management planning, OHV timing limitations would be considered in important seasonal habitats where OHV use is a threat. During subsequent travel management planning, consider limiting snow machine travel to designated routes or consider seasonal closures in greater sage-grouse wintering areas from November 1 through March 31. During subsequent travel management planning, routes in PHMAs not required for public access or recreation with a current administrative/agency purpose or need would be evaluated for administrative access only. During subsequent travel management planning, prioritize

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
						Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
						restoration of routes not designated in a Travel Management Plan within PHMAs.
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During subsequent travel management planning, consider using seed mixes or transplant techniques that will maintain or enhance greater sage-grouse habitat when rehabilitating linear disturbances. • During subsequent travel management planning, consider scheduling road maintenance to avoid disturbance during sensitive periods and times to the extent practicable. Use time of day limits (after 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM) to reduce impacts on greater sage-grouse during breeding and nesting periods.⁷
7231	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
						Same as Alternative B.
						Limit route construction to realignments of existing designated routes in priority habitat if that realignment has a minimal impact on sage-grouse habitat, eliminates the need to construct a new road, or is necessary for motorist safety.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
7232	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
						Same as Alternative B.
						Use existing roads or realignments in greater sage-grouse priority habitat to access valid existing rights that are not yet developed. If valid existing rights cannot be accessed via existing roads, then build any new road constructed to the absolute minimum standard necessary, and add the surface disturbance to the total disturbance in the priority area. If that disturbance exceeds 3 percent for that area, then evaluate and implement additional, effective mitigation necessary to offset the resulting loss of sage-grouse habitat.
7233	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
						Allow no upgrading of existing routes that would change route category (road, primitive road, or trail) or capacity unless upgrading would have minimal impact on sage-grouse habitat, is necessary for motorist safety, or eliminates the need to construct a new road.
7234	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
						Construct new roads to a minimum design standard needed for proposed activity.
						Conduct restoration of roads, primitive roads, and trails not designated in travel management
						Same as Alternative E.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
7235	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7236	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
Recreation and Visitor Services						
7237	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7238	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
Non-Energy Leasables						

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
7239	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
Locatable Minerals						
7240	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7241	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)						
For existing non-energy leasable mineral leases in priority habitat, in addition to the solid minerals required design features, follow the same required design features applied to Fluid Minerals, when wells are used for solution mining.						
Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAS ACEC)						
No similar action.						
Alternative D (Proposed RMP)						
Same as Alternative B.						
Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)						
For existing non-energy leasable mineral leases in priority habitat, in addition to the solid minerals required design features, follow the same required design features applied to Fluid Minerals, when wells are used for solution mining.						
Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAS ACEC)						
No similar action.						

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs							
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)	(Proposed RMP)
							mineral rights within the ACEC area and deed to US Government. Consider seasonal restrictions if deemed effective.
Salable Minerals							
7242	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B. In the Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC, restore salable mineral pits no longer in use to meet sage-grouse habitat conservation objectives.
7243	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.	Close the Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC to mineral materials disposals.
Unleased Federal Fluid Mineral Estate							
7244	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.	The Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC is closed to mineral leasing.
							Apply a NSO stipulation within 0.6 mile of occupied sage-grouse leks (Map 89). Apply a minimum lease size of 640 contiguous acres of federal mineral estate within sage-grouse PHMAs. Lease smaller parcels only when 640 contiguous acres of federal mineral estate is not available and leasing is necessary to remain in compliance with laws, regulations, and policy; for example, to protect the federal mineral

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
Leased Federal Fluid Mineral Estate						
7245	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
						Same as Alternative B.
						Require unitization when deemed necessary for proper development and operation of an area or to facilitate more orderly (e.g., phased and/or clustered) development as a means of minimizing adverse impacts to resources, including greater sage-grouse, so long as the unitization plan adequately protects the rights of all parties

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
					Alternative D (Proposed RMP)	Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)
						including the United States, according to the Federal Lease Form, 3100-11, Sections 4 and 6.
7246	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
						Require a full reclamation bond specific to the site in accordance with 43 CFR 3104.2, 3104.3, and 3104.5. Ensure bonds are sufficient for costs relative to reclamation that would result in full restoration of the lands to the condition it was found prior to disturbance. Base the reclamation costs on the assumption that contractors for the BLM or USFS will perform the work.
7247	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
						Upon expiration or termination of existing leases, do not accept nominations or expressions of interest for parcels within the Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC.
7248	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
						Implement management actions regarding unitization and requirements for full reclamation bonds through implementation decisions (e.g., approval of an APD, Sundry Notice, etc.) and upon completion of the

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
7249	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.

Alternative D (Proposed RMP)	Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)	Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAS ACEC)
	<p>environmental record of review (43 CFR 3162.5), including appropriate documentation of compliance with NEPA. Evaluate, among other things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether the conservation measure is “reasonable” (43 CFR 3101.1-2) with the valid existing rights; and • Whether the action is in conformance with the approved RMP. 	<p>Apply a NSO condition of approval within 0.6 mile of occupied sage-grouse leks. Apply TLS condition of approval to restrict disruptive activity within 0.6 mile of occupied sage-grouse leks from March 1 to June 30.</p> <p>Do not allow new surface occupancy on federal leases within the Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC during any time of the year.</p> <p>Consider an exception:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the lease is entirely within the ACEC; apply a 4 mile NSO around the lek, and limit permitted disturbances to one per section with no more than 3 percent

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
						Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
						Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)
7250	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7251	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7252	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
						Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAS ACEC)

- surface disturbance in that section.
- If the entire lease is within the 4 mile lek perimeter, limit permitted disturbances to one per section with no more than 3 percent surface disturbance in that section. Require any development to be placed at the most distal part of the lease from the lek, or, depending on topography and other habitat aspects, in an area that is less demonstrably harmful to sage-grouse.

Apply a TLS condition of approval to prohibit surface-disturbing exploratory drilling activities during the nesting and early brood-rearing season in priority sage-grouse habitat.

Complete Master Development Plans in lieu of APD-by-APD processing for all but wildcat wells.

Limit proposed surface disturbance to 3 percent for an area when permitting APDs on existing leases that are not yet developed.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
						Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
						Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)
						Consider an exception if additional mitigation is demonstrated to offset the resulting loss of sage-grouse habitat.
						Implement additional mitigation when necessary in priority sage-grouse habitat.
						Implement additional mitigation first within the same population area where the impact is realized, and if not possible, then conduct mitigation within the same Management Zone as the impact, per 2006 WAFWA Strategy (page 2-17).
						Explore options to amend, cancel, or buy out leases.
7253	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7254	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7255	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
7256	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
Mineral Split Estate						
7257	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7258	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
Geophysical Exploration						
7259	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
						Close the Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC to geophysical exploration.
						Allow geophysical exploration in the Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs ACEC to obtain exploratory information for areas outside of and adjacent to priority sage-grouse habitat areas.
						Allow geophysical operations only by helicopter-portable drilling methods and in accordance with seasonal timing

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs										
	Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)	Alternative D (Proposed RMP)	Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)	Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAS ACEC)
										restrictions and/or other restrictions that may apply.
Livestock Grazing										
7260	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.	Close the Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC to livestock grazing.	Allow livestock grazing in the Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAS ACEC.	
7261	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.	No similar action.	Incorporate sage-grouse habitat objectives and management considerations into all BLM grazing allotments through AMPs or permit renewals.	
7262	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.	No similar action.	Work cooperatively on integrated ranch planning so operations with deeded/State/BLM and/or USFS allotments can be planned as single units.	
7263	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.	No similar action.	Prioritize completion of rangeland health assessments and processing grazing permits in the Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAS ACEC. Focus this process on allotments that have the best opportunities for conserving, enhancing, or restoring habitat for sage-grouse. Utilize ESDs to conduct rangeland health assessments to determine if standards of range-land health are being met.	

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
7264	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7265	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
7266	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7267	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7268	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7269	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
						Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
7270	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7271	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7272	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7273	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
7274	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.

Alternative D (Proposed RMP)	Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)	Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAS ACEC)
		predevelopment riparian area. Make modifications where necessary, considering impacts to other water uses when such considerations are neutral or beneficial to sage-grouse.

Sagebrush Treatment: Sagebrush eradication is considered disturbance and will contribute to the 3 percent disturbance factor. In stands with less than 15 percent cover, treatment should be designed to maintain or improve sagebrush habitat percent.	Only allow treatments that conserve, enhance, or restore sage-grouse habitat in the Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC (this includes treatments that benefit livestock as part of an AMP/Conservation Plan to improve sage-grouse habitat).	Sagebrush treatments that maintain sagebrush canopy cover at or above 15 percent total canopy cover within the treated acres will not be considered disturbance. Treatments that reduce sagebrush canopy cover below 15 percent will be allowed if all such treated areas make up less than 20 percent of the suitable sagebrush habitat within the DDCT analysis, and any point within the treated area is within 60 meters of sagebrush habitat with 10 percent or greater
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Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
						Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
						Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)
						Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs ACEC)
7275	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
						Same as Alternative B.
						No similar action.
						Evaluate the role of existing seedlings to determine if the area should be restored to sagebrush or habitat of higher quality for sage-grouse. If these seedlings are part of an AMP/Conservation Plan or if they provide value in conserving or enhancing the rest of the greater

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs							Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAS ACEC)	
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)	Alternative D (Proposed RMP)	Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)
								sage-grouse PHMAS, then no restoration would be necessary. Assess the compatibility of these seedings for sage-grouse habitat or as a component of a grazing system during the rangeland health assessments (or other analyses [USFS only]).
7276	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.	Design any new structural range improvements and supplements (salt or protein blocks) locations to conserve, enhance, or restore sage-grouse habitat through an improved grazing management system relative to sage-grouse objectives. Structural range improvements, in this context, include but are not limited to cattle guards, fences, enclosures, corrals, or other livestock handling structures; pipelines, troughs, and storage tanks (including moveable tanks used in livestock water hauling); windmills; ponds/reservoirs; solar panels; and spring developments. Potential for invasive species establishment or increase following

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
						Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
7277	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7278	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7279	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7280	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
						Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)
						Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAs ACEC)

						construction must be considered in the project planning process and monitored and treated post-construction.
						When developing or modifying water developments, use applicable required design features (see Appendix L) to mitigate potential impacts from West Nile virus.
						No similar action.
						Evaluate existing structural range improvements and supplements (salt or protein blocks) locations to make sure they conserve, enhance, or restore priority sage-grouse habitat.
						Same as Alternative E.
						Remove, modify, or mark fences to reduce outright sage-grouse strikes and mortality in high risk areas within priority sage-grouse habitat based on proximity to lek, lek size, and topography.
						Monitor for and treat invasive species associated with existing range improvements in the Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC.
						Same as Alternative E.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
7281	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7282	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7283	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
7284	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
						Same as Alternative E.
						Maintain retirement of grazing privileges as an option in priority sage-grouse areas when the current permittee is willing to retire grazing on all or part of an allotment. Analyze the adverse impacts of no livestock use on wildfire and invasive species threats in evaluating retirement proposals.
						No similar action.
						Identify the specific allotment(s) where retirement of grazing privileges is potentially beneficial. (See Appendix P for a list of all grazing allotments in PHMAs; this list indicates the universe of allotments where retirement could be considered, not those currently identified for retirement.)
						Encourage partners to monitor effects of retiring grazing permits in sage-grouse habitat.
						Any vegetation treatment plan must include pre-treatment data on wildlife and habitat condition, establish non-grazing enclosures, and include long-term monitoring where treated areas are

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
						Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
						Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)
						Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHMAS ACEC)
						monitored for at least 3 years before grazing returns. Continue monitoring for 5 years after livestock are returned to the area, and compare to treated, ungrazed exclosures, as well as untreated areas.
Wild Horses and Burros						
7285	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
						Same as Alternative E.
						For all HMAs within priority sage-grouse habitat, prioritize the evaluation of all AMLs based on indicators that address structure, condition, and composition of vegetation and measurements specific to achieving sage-grouse habitat objectives.
7286	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
						Same as Alternative E.
						Conduct rangeland health assessments to determine existing structure, condition, and composition of vegetation within all HMAs.
Adaptive Management						
7287	X	X	SD:1.1 SD:1.2	No ACEC currently exists. ⁵	No ACEC would be designated. ⁵	Same as Alternative B.
						Same as Alternative B.
						The greater sage-grouse adaptive management plan provides regulatory assurance that unintended negative impacts to greater sage-grouse habitat will be addressed before
						This RMP includes the requirements for the development of EIS/project level adaptive management strategies in support of the population management objectives for greater sage-grouse set by the
						Same as Alternative E.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
						<p>consequences become severe or irreversible. Adaptive management triggers are essential for identifying when potential management changes are needed in order to continue meeting greater sage-grouse conservation objectives. With respect to sage-grouse, all regulatory entities in Wyoming, including the BLM and USFS, use soft and hard triggers. Soft and hard triggers are focused on three metrics: 1) number of active leks, 2) acres of available habitat; and 3) population trends based on annual lek counts. See Appendix Y for more information on soft and hard triggers.</p> <p>Soft Triggers Response: Soft triggers require immediate monitoring and surveillance to determine causal factors and may require curtailment of activities in the short or long term, as allowed by law. The project level adaptive management strategies will identify appropriate responses where the project's activities are identified as the causal</p> <p>State of Wyoming (State of Wyoming Office of the Governor, EO 2011-5 [Wyoming Office of the Governor 2011]). These adaptive management strategies will be developed in partnership with the WGFDP, project proponents, partners, and stakeholders, incorporating the best available science. The purpose of these strategies will be to ensure amelioration of greater sage-grouse population declines by providing the framework in which management will be changed if negative impacts are detected through a rigorous monitoring program.</p> <p>Wyoming BLM typically manages the public lands to meet objectives of the State of Wyoming. At this time the population objective is to maintain at least 67 percent of the 2005-2008 Greater Sage-Grouse Core Area Population within the State of Wyoming. Wyoming BLM and USFS will coordinate with the State of Wyoming in implementation planning to develop a statewide</p>

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – ACECs – Proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Priority Habitat Area ACECs						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
						<p>factor. The management agency (BLM and/or USFS) and the Adaptive Management Work Group will implement an appropriate response strategy to address causal factors not attributable to a specific project or to make adjustments at a larger regional or statewide level.</p> <p>Hard Trigger Response: Upon determination that a hard trigger has been tripped, the BLM and/or USFS will immediately defer issuance of discretionary authorizations for new actions within the Biologically Significant Unit for a period of 90 days. In addition, within 14 days of a determination that a hard trigger has been tripped, the Adaptive Management Work Group will convene to develop an interim response strategy and initiate an assessment to determine the causal factor or factors (hereafter called the causal factor assessment).⁷</p>

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – National Back Country Byways						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
GOAL SD:2 Manage National Back Country Byways to enhance opportunities for the public to see and enjoy public lands.						
			Objectives:			
			SD:2.1 Promote the increased awareness of the historical and cultural values and facilitate a sense of stewardship within the Red Gulch/Alkali Road National Back Country Byway.			
			SD:2.2 Where appropriate, identify scenic or back country byways and where necessary develop management prescriptions to maintain resource values.			
			SD:2.3 Through cooperative relationships with volunteer groups, landowners, other agencies, and other interested stakeholders, showcase landscapes, their scenic qualities, multiple uses, and unique character through interpretation.			
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES						
7288	X	SD:2	SD:2 Continue the existing Red Gulch/Alkali Road National Back Country Byway designation (Map 90). Manage cultural and environmental interpretation and education along the Byway under the <i>Red Gulch/Alkali National Back Country Byway Interpretive Master Plan</i> (BLM 1994a).			
7289	X	SD:2.1 SD:2.3	Develop educational materials and facilities to enhance the knowledge of resources and the unique character of National Back Country Byways.			
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
7290	X	SD:2.2	No similar action.	Designate the Hyattville Logging Road as a primitive Back Country Byway (Map 90). The designated area includes the roadway up to the National Bighorn Forest Service connecting with FS Rd 408, which leads back to U.S. Highway 16, consisting of 25 miles of Type I and II gravel road (10 miles BLM, 8 miles USFS, 3 miles private, 4 miles State of Wyoming). Manage the area in cooperation with Big Horn County, the Bighorn National Forest Service, the State of Wyoming, and affected private landowners with the objective of encouraging responsible motorized	Do not designate the Hyattville Logging Road as a Back Country Byway. Consider the designation of new Back Country Byways on a case-by-case basis in cooperation with stakeholders.	Same as Alternative B. Same as Alternative D.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – National Back Country Byways						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				recreational use of the proposed Byway, while protecting and displaying the scenic, cultural, geologic, multiple uses, and crucial wildlife habitat values that occur in the area.		
7291	X	SD:2.2 SD:2.3	No similar action.	Develop interpretive facilities (including interpretive pull-outs, parking areas, trailheads, etc.) and publish interpretive and educational brochures displaying the multiple uses on BLM-administered public lands; the geologic, scenic, and cultural values; and the unique character of the Hattville Logging Road Back Country Byway.	Do not develop interpretive facilities.	Consider the development of interpretive facilities (including interpretive pull-outs, parking areas, trailheads, etc.) and public interpretive and educational brochures displaying the multiple users on BLM-administered public lands; the geologic, scenic, and cultural values, and the unique character of newly designated Back Country Byways.
7292	X	SD:2.2	No similar action.	Designate the Hazelton (33 Mile) road as a Back Country Byway (Map 90). The designated area includes the roadway from the Washakie Country boundary south to the Natrona County Boundary connecting with the South Bighorn/Red Wall Back Country Byway, consisting of 21.7 miles of Type II gravel road (13 miles BLM, 0.7 miles State of Wyoming, and 8 miles traversing through private land).	Do not designate the Hazelton Road as a Back Country Byway.	Consider the designation of new Back Country Byways on a case-by-case basis in cooperation with stakeholders.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – National Back Country Byways							
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)	
				Manage the area through the BLM WFO in cooperation with Washakie County, the State of Wyoming Land Board, the BLM Casper and Buffalo Field Offices, and affected private landowners with the objective of encouraging responsible motorized recreational use of the proposed byway, while protecting and displaying the scenic, cultural, geologic, multiple use, and crucial wildlife habitat values that occur in the area.	Alternative D (Proposed RMP)	Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)	Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHIMAs ACEC)
7293	X	SD:2.2	No similar action.	Develop interpretive facilities (including interpretive pull-outs, parking areas, trailheads, etc.) and publish interpretive and educational brochures displaying the multiple uses on BLM-administered public lands; the geologic, scenic, and cultural values; and the unique character of the Hazeltine Road Back Country Byway.	Do not develop interpretive facilities.	Consider the development of interpretive facilities (including interpretive pull-outs, parking areas, trailheads, etc.) and publish interpretive and educational brochures displaying the multiple uses on BLM-administered public lands; the geologic, scenic, and cultural values; and the unique character of newly designated Back Country Byways.	Same as Alternative B. Same as Alternative D.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – Heart Mountain Relocation Center National Historic Landmark						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
GOAL SD:1 Maintain and protect the integrity of unique resource values, preserve historic significance, and provide opportunity for other compatible uses where appropriate.						
Objectives:						
7294	X		SD:1.1 SD:2.1	Pursue a withdrawal from appropriation under the mining laws for 72 acres of federal minerals underlying federal surface within the Heart Mountain Relocation Camp National Historic Landmark.	Utilize special designations to meet resource protection needs within appropriate geographical areas. Provide for appropriate interpretation of sites of high public interest.	
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES						
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
7295	X		SD:1.1 SD:2.1	No similar action.	Avoid surface-disturbing activities in view within 5 miles of Heart Mountain National Historic Landmark, except within existing utility corridors (Map 64 and Map 93).	Same as Alternative A. Do not authorize Moderate or Strong Contrast, except ROWs within the utility corridors (Map 66 and Map 93), within the viewshed from the Heart Mountain Relocation Camp National Historic Landmark toward Heart Mountain. Require all undertakings in the viewshed to have a Visual Contrast Rating and, as appropriate, require visual simulation. Avoid, minimize and/or compensate adverse effects from all undertakings by using BMPs (Appendix L).
						Same as Alternative B. Same as Alternative D.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – Heart Mountain Relocation Center National Historic Landmark						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
7296	X	SD:1.1 SD:2.1	No similar action.	Manage areas within 3 miles (12,506 acres of federal mineral estate) as closed to leasing and apply a CSU stipulation in view within 5 miles (7,367 acres of federal mineral estate) of the Heart Mountain National Historic Landmark (Map 93).	Manage areas within the footprint of the original Heart Mountain Urban Area (833 acres of federal mineral estate) as closed to leasing.	Same as Alternative C, plus apply a CSU stipulation and BMPs (Appendix L) to avoid, minimize and/or compensate adverse effects within the viewshed from the Heart Mountain Relocation Camp National Historic Landmark toward Heart Mountain.
7297	X	SD:1.1 SD:2.1	No similar action.	Close the area within 3 miles (12,506 acres of federal mineral estate) and in view within 5 miles (7,367 acres of federal mineral estate) of Heart Mountain National Historic Landmark to mineral materials disposal (Map 93).	The area within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile (387 acres of federal mineral estate), and in view within 1 mile (978 acres of federal mineral estate) of Heart Mountain National Historic Landmark is closed to mineral materials disposal (Map 93).	Prohibit mineral materials disposal within the National Historic Landmark Urban Center.

Alternative F
(Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)
PHIMAs ACEC)

Same as Alternative D.

Same as Alternative B.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – National Historic Trails and Other Historic Trails											
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)					
GOAL SD:3 Manage National Historic Trails and Other Historic Trails for long-term heritage and educational values and to enhance the public experience.											
Objectives:											
SD:3.1	Maintain compatible recreational use with historic trail values.										
SD:3.2	Maintain setting for those contributing trail segments where setting is an aspect of integrity by utilizing watershed management tools.										
SD:3.3	Safeguard the nature and purposes; and conserve, protect, and restore the National Historic Trail resources, qualities, values, and associated settings and the primary use or uses.										
SD:3.4	Provide premier trail visitor experiences for public benefit.										
SD:3.5	Maximize opportunities for shared National Historic Trail stewardship.										
SD:3.6	Reduce the potential for uses that substantially interfere with the nature and purposes of the National Historic Trail.										
SD:3.7	Avoidance of activities that are incompatible with the purposes for which the National Historic Trail was established.										
SD:3.8	Identify and manage the historic route and historic remnants and artifacts for public use, enjoyment, and vicarious trail experiences.										
SD:3.9	Identify and manage high potential historic sites or high potential route segments, including the recommendation of additional Federal Protection Components.										
GOAL SD:4 Enhance public experience through interpretive facilities and support of heritage tourism.											
Objectives:											
SD:4.1	Sites associated with historic trails will be interpreted and developed as needed.										
SD:4.2	Maximize partnership and cooperative management opportunities (e.g., cooperate with private landowners to install trail markers, provide public access, etc.)										
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE											
Nez Perce National Historic Trail											
7298	X	SD:3.1 SD:3.2 SD:4.1 SD:4.2	Avoid surface-disturbing activities in view within ½ mile of the Nez Perce (Neeme-poo) NHT, except within existing utility corridors (Map 91).	Avoid surface-disturbing activities in view within 5 miles of the Nez Perce (Neeme-poo) NHT, except within existing utility corridors (Map 91).	Same as Alternative A.	Avoid surface-disturbing activities and protect the foreground of National Historic Trails (defined in Glossary) up to 3 miles or the visual horizon whenever closer (the SCZ) where setting is an important aspect of the integrity of the trail. Use BMPs (Appendix L) to avoid, minimize and/or compensate adverse effects.					
					Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative D.					

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – National Historic Trails and Other Historic Trails						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
7299	X	SD:3.1 SD:3.2 SD:4.1 SD:4.2	Apply a NSO restriction within ¼ mile of the Nez Perce (Neeme-poo) NHT.	Apply a NSO restriction within 3 miles and a CSU stipulation in view within 5 miles of the Nez Perce (Neeme-poo) NHT.	Apply a NSO restriction within ¼ mile and a CSU stipulation within 1 mile of the Nez Perce (Neeme-poo) NHT.	Protect the foreground of National Historic Trails (defined in Glossary) up to 3 miles or the visual horizon whenever is closer (the SCZ) where setting is an important aspect of the integrity for the trail. Use BMPs (Appendix L) to avoid, minimize and/or compensate adverse effects.
7300	X	SD:3.1 SD:3.2 SD:4.1 SD:4.2	Avoid surface-disturbing activities in view within ¼ mile of the Nez Perce (Neeme-poo) NHT.	Areas within 3 miles, or in view within 5 miles of the Nez Perce (Neeme-poo) NHT are closed to mineral materials disposal.	Areas within ¼ mile, or in view within 1 mile of the Nez Perce (Neeme-poo) NHT are closed to mineral materials disposal.	Avoid surface-disturbing activities and protect the foreground of National Historic Trails (defined in Glossary) up to 3 miles or the visual horizon whenever is closer (the SCZ) where setting is an important aspect of the integrity for the trail. Use BMPs (Appendix L) to avoid, minimize and/or compensate adverse effects.
7301	X	SD:3.1 SD:3.2 SD:4.1 SD:4.2	Avoid surface-disturbing activities in view within ¼ mile of the Nez Perce (Neeme-poo) NHT.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in view within 5 miles of the Nez Perce (Neeme-poo) NHT.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in view within ¼ miles of the Nez Perce (Neeme-poo) NHT.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails in view within 5 miles of the Nez Perce (Neeme-poo) NHT, except where other resources considerations impose more restrictive management.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – National Historic Trails and Other Historic Trails						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
Regionally Important Prehistoric and Historic Trails (Other Trails)						
7302	X	X	SD:3.1 SD:3.2 SD:4.1 SD:4.2	Avoid surface-disturbing activities in the immediate vicinity of important cultural resources and canals and in view within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of significant segments of the Bridger Trail and Fort Washakie to Meeteetse to Red Lodge Trail (Other Trails) (Map 91).	Avoid surface-disturbing activities and ROW authorizations in view within 5 miles of Other Trails, except within existing utility corridors (Map 91).	Avoid surface-disturbing activities and ROW authorizations in view within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of Other Trails, except within existing utility corridors where the trail lacks physical integrity or where the trail setting has been previously compromised (Map 91).
7303	X	X	SD:3.1 SD:3.2 SD:4.1 SD:4.2	Apply a NSO restriction within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of Other Trails.	Apply a NSO restriction within 3 miles and a CSU stipulation in view within 5 miles of Other Trails.	Apply a NSO restriction within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile and a CSU stipulation within 1 mile of Other Trails, except where the trail is known to lack physical integrity or the trail setting has been previously compromised.

Alternative D
(Proposed RMP)

Alternative E
(Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Areas ACEC)

Alternative F
(Greater Sage-Grouse PHIMAs ACEC)

Same as Alternative B.

Same as Alternative C.

Same as Alternative D.

Same as Alternative E.

Same as Alternative F.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – National Historic Trails and Other Historic Trails						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
7304	X	X	SD:3.1 SD:3.2 SD:4.1 SD:4.2	Avoid surface-disturbing activities in the immediate vicinity of important cultural resources and in view within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of significant segments of Other Trails.	Areas within 3 miles, or in view within 5 miles of Other Trails are closed to mineral materials disposal.	Areas within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, or in view within 1 mile of Other Trails are closed to mineral materials disposal, except where the trail is known to lack physical integrity or the trail setting has been previously compromised.
7305	X	X	SD:3.1 SD:3.2 SD:4.1 SD:4.2	No similar action.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails in view within 5 miles of Other Trails.	Avoid surface-disturbing activities and protect the foreground of Historic Trails (defined in Glossary) up to 2 miles or the visual horizon whichever is closer (the SCZ) where setting is an important aspect of the integrity for the trail. Use BMPs (Appendix L) to avoid, minimize and/or compensate adverse effects.

Alternative D (Proposed RMP)

Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC)

Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHIMAs ACEC)

Same as Alternative D.

Same as Alternative B.

Same as Alternative D.

Motorized vehicle use is managed consistent with other resource objectives (Map 72).

Same as Alternative B.

Same as Alternative D.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – Wild and Scenic Rivers							
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)	
				GOAL SD:5 Protect the free-flowing condition, water quality, tentative classification, and any outstanding remarkable values of suitable river segments until Congress designates the river or releases it for other uses.			
			Objective:	SD:5.1 Protect outstanding remarkable values of eligible and suitable VSR segments.			
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE							
7306	X	X	SD:5.1	Continue interim management into perpetuity on the following WSR eligible waterways (Map 94): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep Creek: 5.29 miles (Wild) • Dry Medicine Lodge Creek: 10.61 miles (Scenic) • Medicine Lodge Creek: 5.72 miles (Wild) • Middle Fork of the Powder River: 1.12 miles (Recreational) • Paint Rock Creek Unit (Includes Paint Rock: 6.61 miles, South Fork of Paint Rock: 3.27 miles, and a portion of Laddie Creek: 0.69 miles): 11.18 miles (Recreational) • Trapper Creek: 10.91 miles (Wild) • White Creek (downstream portion): 6.98 miles (Wild) • Porcupine Creek: 10.8 miles (Wild and Scenic) • Deer Creek: 1.45 miles (Scenic) 	Manage all waterways listed under Alternative A as suitable for inclusion in the NWRSR. Apply protective management based on a case-by-case review.	Manage all waterways listed under Alternative A as unsuitable for inclusion in the NWRSR, and release these areas to other uses. No special management actions are applied to these areas.	Same as Alternative C. Same as Alternative B. Same as Alternative C. Same as Alternative C.

Detailed Alternatives**Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)**

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – Wild and Scenic Rivers						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
Alternative D (Proposed RMP)						
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oasis Spring Creek: 2.07 miles (Wild) • Trout Creek: 0.96 miles (Wild) • Cow Creek: Segments 1 and 2- 1.92 miles (Wild) • Cottonwood Creek (Segment 2): 4.05 miles (Scenic) • Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River (Segment 3): 4.74 miles (Scenic) <p>Unless otherwise noted, interim management on the following waterways is based on case-by-case evaluations of discretionary actions:</p> <p>Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone (Segment 2) (3.77 miles); Meeteetse Creek (2.78 miles); North fork Shoshone River (0.85 miles); Pat O'Hara Creek (2.17 miles); South Fork Shoshone River (1.98 miles); Canyon Creek (1.3 miles); Kirby Creek (0.15 miles); Paint Rock Creek Unit (upstream portion of Laddie Creek) (0.7 miles); and White Creek (upstream portion) (1.26 miles).</p> <p>See the WSR Report for a complete description of the above waterway segments.</p>	Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Areas ACEC)	Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHIMAs ACEC)

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – Wild and Scenic Rivers						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
7307	X	X	SD:5.1	Close BLM-administered lands within the waterway corridors of WSR eligible and suitable segments to land disposal actions.	Same as Alternative A.	Manage BLM-administered lands within these areas consistent with other resource objectives.
7308	X	X	SD:5.1	Prohibit water impoundments, major diversions, or hydroelectric power facilities on all waterways identified above.	Same as Alternative A.	Manage the area in accordance with the adjacent BLM-administered lands, consistent with other resource objectives.
7309	X	X	SD:5.1	Continue to pursue a withdrawal from appropriation under the mining laws for BLM-administered land within the following waterways and manage as closed to mineral leasing:	Pursue a withdrawal from appropriation under the mining laws for BLM-administered land within all waterway segments. Land within these segments is closed to mineral leasing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep Creek • Dry Medicine Lodge Creek (within the Spanish Point Karst ACEC) • Medicine Lodge Creek • Trapper Creek • White Creek (downstream portion) • Porcupine Creek (“wild” portion only) • Oasis Spring Creek • Trout Creek • Cow Creek 	Manage these areas in accordance with the adjacent BLM-administered lands, consistent with other resource objectives.
						Same as Alternative C.
						Same as Alternative B.
						Same as Alternative C.
						Same as Alternative D.
						Same as Alternative E.
						Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHIMAs ACEC)

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – Wild and Scenic Rivers						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
7310	X	X	SD:5.1	BLM-administered land within the following scenic and recreational waterway segments is open to mineral leasing with a NSO and a seasonal NSO (WFO only):	Pursue a withdrawal from appropriation under the mining laws for BLM-administered land within all waterway segments. Land within these segments is closed to mineral leasing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry Medicine Lodge Creek (outside the Spanish Point Karst ACEC) • Middle Fork of the Powder River • Paint Rock Creek Unit (A portion of Laddie Creek, Paint Rock, and South Fork Paint Rock) • Porcupine Creek (“scenic” portion only) • Deer Creek • Cottonwood Creek • Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River (Segment 3) Permit reasonable mining claim and mineral lease access.	Manage these areas in accordance with the adjacent BLM-administered lands, consistent with other resource objectives.
7311	X	X	SD:5.1		Close the following waterway segments to recreational dredging for minerals, such as gold, and to mineral materials disposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep Creek • Dry Medicine Lodge Creek • Medicine Lodge Creek • Trapper Creek 	Manage these areas in accordance with the adjacent BLM-administered lands, consistent with other resource objectives.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – Wild and Scenic Rivers						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
						Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White Creek (downstream portion) • Porcupine Creek • Deer Creek • Oasis Spring Creek • Trout Creek • Cow Creek • Cottonwood Creek • Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River (Segment 3) 		
7312	X	X	SD:5.1	Limit geophysical exploration on BLM-administered land within the following waterway segments to foot access: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep Creek • Medicine Lodge Creek • Trapper Creek • White Creek (downstream portion) • Porcupine Creek • Deer Creek • Oasis Spring Creek • Trout Creek • Cow Creek • Cottonwood Creek • Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River (Segment 3) 	Manage these areas in accordance with the adjacent BLM-administered lands, consistent with other resource objectives.	Same as Alternative C.
7313	X	X	SD:5.1	BLM-administered land within the following scenic and recreational waterway segments is open to geophysical exploration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middle Fork of the 	Close BLM-administered land within all waterway segments to geophysical exploration.	Same as Alternative C.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – Wild and Scenic Rivers						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
			Powder River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry Medicine Lodge Creek • Paint Rock Creek Unit (a portion of Laddie Creek, Paint Rock, and South Fork Paint Rock) <p>Motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails.</p>		
7314	X	X	SD:5.1	<p>Allow surface-disturbing activities on BLM-administered land within the following scenic and recreational waterway segments on a case by case basis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middle Fork of the Powder River • Paint Rock Creek Unit (a portion of Laddie Creek, Paint Rock, and South Fork Paint Rock) • Dry Medicine Lodge Creek <p>Allow for activities such as recreation, range, and wildlife habitat improvements.</p>	<p>Prohibit surface-disturbing activities on BLM-administered land within all waterway segments.</p>	<p>Manage these areas in accordance with the adjacent BLM-administered lands, consistent with other resource objectives.</p>
7315	X	X	SD:5.1		<p>Same as Alternative A.</p> <p>Prohibit surface-disturbing activities such as construction of major recreation developments, wildlife habitat improvements, and range improvements on BLM-administered land within the following waterway segments:</p>	<p>Manage these areas in accordance with the adjacent BLM-administered lands, consistent with other resource objectives.</p>

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – Wild and Scenic Rivers							
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)	
			• Deep Creek	• Medicine Lodge Creek • Trapper Creek • White Creek (downstream portion) • Porcupine Creek • Deer Creek • Oasis Spring Creek • Trout Creek • Cow Creek • Cottonwood Creek • Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River (Segment 3)			
7316	X	SD:5.1	Manage BLM-administered land within the following wild waterway segments as ROW exclusion areas:	Manage BLM-administered land within all waterway segments as ROW exclusion areas, except where private land access must be provided according to policy.	Manage these areas in accordance with the adjacent BLM-administered lands, consistent with other resource objectives.	Same as Alternative C. Same as Alternative B.	
7317	X	X	SD:5.1	Manage BLM-administered land within the following wild, scenic, and recreational waterway segments as ROW avoidance areas: • Dry Medicine Lodge Creek • Paint Rock Creek Unit (a portion of Laddie Creek, Paint Rock, and South Fork Paint Rock) • Porcupine Creek	Manage BLM-administered land within all waterway segments as ROW exclusion areas, except where private land access must be provided according to policy.	Manage these areas in accordance with the adjacent BLM-administered lands, consistent with other resource objectives.	Same as Alternative C. Same as Alternative B.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – Wild and Scenic Rivers						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deer Creek • Oasis Spring Creek • Trout Creek • Cow Creek • Cottonwood Creek • Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River (Segment 3) 			
7318	X	SD:5.1	BLM-administered land within the following recreational waterway segment is open to ROW authorizations:	Manage BLM-administered land within all waterway segments as ROW exclusion areas, except where private land access must be provided according to policy.	Manage these areas in accordance with the adjacent BLM-administered lands, consistent with other resource objectives.	Same as Alternative C.
7319	X	SD:5.1	BLM-administered land within the following wild waterway segments is closed to motorized vehicle use and the use of motorized or mechanized vehicle ground equipment to suppress fires is prohibited, except where life is at risk:	BLM-administered land within the following wild, scenic, and recreational waterway segments is closed to motorized vehicle use and the use of motorized or mechanized vehicle ground equipment to suppress fires is prohibited: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep Creek • Medicine Lodge Creek • Trapper Creek • White Creek (downstream portion) • Canyon Creek 	Manage these areas in accordance with the adjacent BLM-administered lands, consistent with other resource objectives. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry Medicine Lodge Creek • Medicine Lodge Creek Unit (Laddie Creek, Paint Rock, and South Fork Paint Rock) • Deep Creek • Medicine Lodge Creek • Trapper Creek • White Creek 	Same as Alternative C.
				Motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails, and the use of motorized and mechanized vehicle ground equipment off existing roads and trails to suppress fires is		Same as Alternative C.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – Wild and Scenic Rivers						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
						Alternative D (Proposed RMP)
				prohibited on BLM-administered land within the following scenic and recreational waterway segments, except where life is at risk:	use of motorized or mechanized vehicle ground equipment to suppress fires is prohibited on BLM-administered land within the following recreational waterway segment:	Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Areas ACEC)
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry Medicine Lodge Creek • Middle Fork of the Powder River • Paint Rock Creek Unit (a portion of Laddie Creek, Paint Rock, and South Fork Paint Rock) • Kirby Creek 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middle Fork of the Powder River • Canyon Creek • Kirby Creek 	Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHM As ACEC)
7320	X	SD:5.1		Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails within the following areas to maintain the outstanding remarkable values associated with wild and scenic waterway segments:	<p>Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails within the following areas to maintain the outstanding remarkable values associated with wild, scenic, recreational waterway segments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Porcupine Creek • Deer Creek • Oasis Spring Creek • Trout Creek • Cow Creek • Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River (Segment 3) • Meeteetse Creek • North Fork of the Shoshone River • South Fork of the Shoshone River Cottonwood Creek is 	<p>Manage these areas in accordance with the adjacent BLM-administered lands, consistent with other resource objectives.</p> <p>Same as Alternative C.</p>

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – Wild and Scenic Rivers						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				closed to motorized vehicle use. Allow motorized and mechanized vehicles to suppress fires.	to suppress fires is prohibited.	
7321	X	X	SD:5.1	Prohibit fire retardant along BLM-administered land within the following wild and scenic waterway segments: • Deep Creek • Medicine Lodge Creek • Middle Fork of the Powder River • Paint Rock Creek Unit (Laddie Creek, Paint Rock, and South Fork Paint Rock) • Trapper Creek • White Creek • Porcupine Creek • Oasis Spring • Trout Creek • Deer Creek	Prohibit fire retardant along BLM-administered land within all waterway segments.	Manage these areas in accordance with the adjacent BLM-administered lands, consistent with other resource objectives.
7322	X	X	SD:5.1	Close BLM-administered land within the following wild and scenic waterway segments to timber sale or harvesting: • Deep Creek • Dry Medicine Lodge Creek • Medicine Lodge Creek • Middle Fork of the Powder River • Trapper Creek • White Creek	Close BLM-administered land within all waterway segments to timber sale or harvesting.	Manage these areas in accordance with the adjacent BLM-administered lands, consistent with other resource objectives.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – Wild and Scenic Rivers						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
Alternative D (Proposed RMP)						
				(downstream portion) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Porcupine Creek • Deer Creek • Oasis Spring Creek • Trout Creek • Cow Creek • Cottonwood Creek • Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River (Segment 3) 		
7323	X	X	SD:5.1	Manage to prevent an increase in actual grazing use on BLM-administered land within all waterway segments.	Prohibit grazing use, including trailing, on BLM-administered land within all waterway segments.	Manage these areas in accordance with the adjacent BLM-administered lands, consistent with other resource objectives.
7324	X	X	SD:5.1	Close BLM-administered land within all waterway segments to vegetation treatment or manipulation by means other than hand or aerial seeding methods.	Same as Alternative A.	Manage these areas in accordance with the adjacent BLM-administered lands, consistent with other resource objectives.
7325	X	X	SD:5.1	Manage BLM-administered land within the following wild and recreational waterway segments as VRM Class IV: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep Creek • Middle Fork of the Powder River 	Manage BLM-administered land within the following wild and recreational waterway segments as VRM Class II: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middle Fork of the Powder River • Paint Rock Creek Unit (Laddie Creek, Paint Rock, and South Fork Paint Rock) • Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River • Meeteetse Creek • North Fork of the 	Manage these areas in accordance with the adjacent BLM-administered lands, consistent with other resource objectives.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – Wild and Scenic Rivers						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry Medicine Lodge Creek (except within Medicine Lodge WSA) • Medicine Lodge Creek (except within Medicine Lodge WSA) • Paint Rock Creek Unit (a portion of Laddie Creek, Paint Rock, and South Fork Paint Rock) • Trapper Creek (except within Trapper Creek WSA) • White Creek (downstream portion) • Porcupine Creek • Deer Creek • Oasis Spring Creek • Trout Creek • Cow Creek • Cottonwood Creek • Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River(Segment 3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shoshone River • Canyon Creek • Pat O'Hara Creek • South Fork Shoshone River Manage BLM-administered land within the following wild and scenic waterway segments as VRM Class I: • Deep Creek • Dry Medicine Lodge Creek • Medicine Lodge Creek • Trapper Creek • White Creek • Porcupine Creek • Deer Creek • Oasis Spring Creek • Trout Creek • Cow Creek • Cottonwood Creek Manage BLM-administered land within Kirby Creek as VRM IV. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative D (Proposed RMP) Alternative E (Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC) Alternative F (Greater Sage-Grouse PHMA As ACEC)

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – Wilderness Study Areas							
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)	
GOAL SD:6				Manage WSAs to maintain their suitability as wilderness.			
				Objective: SD:6.1 Areas managed as WSAs will maintain a high degree of naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude, outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.			
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES							
7326	X	X	SD:6	Manage all WSAs under the guidance of BLM Manual 6330, <i>Management of BLM Wilderness Study Areas</i> (BLM 2012a), to maintain the non-impairment standard.			
7327	X	X	SD:6	The following WSAs (Map 93) are managed under BLM Manual 6330: • McCullough Peaks (24,531 acres) • Alkali Creek (9,475 acres) • Cedar Mountain (20,425 acres) • Honeycombs (20,156 acres) • Medicine Lodge (7,181 acres) • Trapper Creek (7,475 acres) • Owl Creek (668 acres) • Sheep Mountain (23,256 acres) • Red Butte (10,805 acres) • Bobcat Draw Badlands (16,969 acres)			
7328	X	X	SD:6	Manage all WSAs as VRM Class I.			
7329	X	X	SD:6	Manage WSAs as ROW avoidance areas, as detailed in BLM Manual 6330, <i>Management of Wilderness Study Area</i> .			
7330	X	X	SD:6	WSAs are closed to renewable energy development.			
7331	X	X	SD:6	Manage all mineral activities in WSAs as in accordance with BLM Manual 6330.			
7332	X	X	SD:6	WSAs are closed to mineral and geothermal leasing.			
7333	X	X	SD:6	WSAs are closed to mineral materials disposal.			
7334	X	X	SD:6	WSAs that are released by Congress from wilderness study will no longer be subject to BLM Manual 6330 and will be managed under general BLM management authorities found in FLPMA (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) and associated regulations and policies, in accordance with the adjacent BLM-administered lands, consistent with other resource objectives.			
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE							
7335	X	SD:6	Motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails within the Cedar Mountain and Honeycombs WSAs.	The Cedar Mountain and Honeycombs WSAs are closed to motorized and mechanized vehicle use.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails within the Cedar Mountain and Honeycombs WSAs.	Same as Alternative C, which may include the routes inventoried during the initial assessment. Same as Alternative B. Same as Alternative D.	

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

7000 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (SD) – Wilderness Study Areas						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
7336	X	SD:6	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails within the Trapper Creek, Medicine Lodge, and Alkali Creek WSAs. Portions of the Trapper Creek and Medicine Lodge WSAs within the Spanish Point ACEC are closed motorized vehicle use.	The Trapper Creek, Medicine Lodge, and Alkali Creek WSAs are closed to motorized and mechanized vehicle use.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails identified at the time of the WSA inventory in the Trapper Creek, Medicine Lodge, and Alkali Creek WSAs.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails identified at the time of the WSA inventory in the Trapper Creek, Medicine Lodge, and Alkali Creek WSAs, which may include the routes inventoried during the initial assessment.
7337	X	SD:6	Carry forward the McCullough Peaks Travel Management plan, in which motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails within the McCullough Peaks WSA.	The McCullough Peaks WSA is closed to motorized and mechanized vehicle use.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails identified at the time of the WSA inventory in the McCullough Peaks WSA.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails identified at the time of the WSA inventory in the McCullough Peaks WSA.
7338	X	SD:6	Carry forward the Owl Creek, Sheep Mountain, Red Butte, and Bobcat Draw Badlands travel management plans, in which Owl Creek, Sheep Mountain, Red Butte, and Bobcat Draw Badlands WSAs are closed to motorized vehicle use.	Owl Creek, Sheep Mountain, Red Butte, and Bobcat Draw Badlands WSAs are closed to motorized and mechanized vehicle use.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails from the time of the WSA inventory in the Owl Creek, Sheep Mountain, Red Butte, and Bobcat Draw Badlands WSAs.	Motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails from the time of the WSA inventory in the Owl Creek, Sheep Mountain, Red Butte, and Bobcat Draw Badlands WSAs.
7339	X	X	Acquire 639 acres of state land in Bobcat Draw.	Acquire inholdings and/or lands or interest in lands within WSA boundaries in cooperation with willing landowners. Manage acquired inholdings under WSA Interim Management Policy.	Do not pursue acquisition of inholdings, lands, or interests in lands within WSA boundaries.	Acquire inholdings and/or lands or interest in lands within WSA boundaries in cooperation with willing landowners. Manage acquired inholdings to preserve their wilderness characteristics.

Alternative F
Greater Sage-Grouse Key Habitat Areas ACEC
PHIMAs ACEC)

Same as Alternative D.

Same as Alternative B.

Same as Alternative A.

Same as Alternative C.

Same as Alternative D.

Same as Alternative E.

Same as Alternative F.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

8000 SOCIOECONOMIC RESOURCES (SR) – Social and Economic						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
GOAL SR1						
				Provide opportunities for economic and social sustainability at the national, regional, and local level. Ensure local and regional economic development and local land use plans are considered.		
				Objectives:		
				SR1.1. Consider and address the economic impact of BLM decisions on the sectors affected by public land management decisions. Also, coordinate and address the impacts to the social structure of the study region to the extent these same management decisions are expected to produce major changes to the study area's social structure.		
				SR1.2. Recognize infrastructure needs, including implementation and maintenance, directly and indirectly associated with BLM actions.		
				SR2.2. Provide sustainable consumptive economic development opportunities for a diversity of resources and resource uses that are balanced against nonconsumptive uses that affect market and nonmarket values.		
				Objective:		
				SR2.1. Consider the options to access and utilize resources consistent with a multiple resource management philosophy that provides a sustainable and viable economic, cultural, and social environment at the national, regional, and local levels while also providing a balance between consumptive and nonconsumptive uses.		
				SR3.3. Manage use conflicts through public education and outreach efforts.		
				Objective:		
				SR3.1. Work cooperatively with local agencies to foster public awareness, where suitable, through appropriate measures.		
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES						
8001	X	X	SR.1	Ensure BLM actions consider local and regional economic development and land use plans.		
8002	X	X	SR.2	Incorporate BLM actions that are sensitive to the economic and social health of the affected area.		
8003	X	X	SR.1	Management refers to available socioeconomic monitoring plans that provide indicators for the economic and social health of an affected area.		
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
8004	X	X	SR.1	Manage in a way that recognizes BLM actions are integrally connected with both socioeconomics and the cultural health of the Planning Area. BLM's management recognizes and considers local and regional economic development and land use plans. To the extent possible, quantify socioeconomic impacts associated with site-specific and	Manage in a way that not only recognizes that BLM actions are integrally connected with socioeconomics and cultural health of the study area, but also with the explicit goal of developing mitigation strategies designed to resolve conflicts that have a detrimental effects on multiple resource use. Moreover, manage in a way that recognizes and	Manage in a way that not only recognizes the fact that BLM actions are integrally connected with socioeconomics and cultural health of the study area, but also with the goal of developing management strategies designed to recognize and point out conflicts that are expected to have an impact on multiple resource use. However, the focus of this strategy is
					Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative B.
						Same as Alternative A.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

8000 SOCIOECONOMIC RESOURCES (SR) – Social and Economic						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
				programmatic BLM actions. Share the results with state and local governmental officials for the purpose of promoting collaborative management, where possible, to ensure the affected parties and overlapping jurisdictions are provided that information as required by law.	incorporates, to the extent possible, local and regional economic development and land use plans so long as they are consistent and sensitive to the multiple resource use philosophy. Quantify socioeconomic impacts associated with site-specific and programmatic BLM actions to the extent possible. Share the results with state and local governmental officials for the purpose of working together cooperatively and providing that information to the affected parties and overlapping jurisdictions as required by law.	to promote extractive industries that rely on public resources. Manage to recognize and consider local and regional economic development and land use plans. Quantify the socioeconomic impacts associated with site-specific and programmatic BLM actions to the extent possible. Share the results with state and local governmental officials for the purpose of promoting collaborative management, where possible, and to ensure the affected parties and overlapping jurisdictions are provided that information as required by law.
8005	X	X	SR.1	No Similar action.	Manage with minimal consideration of economic benefits on local communities.	Manage to provide a predictable supply of goods and services within the sustainable limits of the ecosystem, which help meet public demand. Encourage public and private partnerships to achieve the shared economic objectives of providing employment and income to local communities while benefiting ecosystem health.

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

8000 SOCIOECONOMIC RESOURCES (SR) – Health and Safety						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
			GOAL SR:4	Manage risks to public health and safety and the environment posed by human-caused hazards and/or natural geologic hazards on the National System of Public Lands.		
			Objectives:			
			SR:4.1	Protect public health and safety and the environment through complying with federal and state laws and regulations governing hazardous substances and the generation of hazardous wastes; maintaining the health of ecosystems though assessment, cleanup, and restoration of contaminated sites; and integrating environmental protection and compliance into all BLM activities.		
			SR:4.2	Collaborate with Wyoming DEQ, through existing or new MOUs to identify and plan for remediation of Abandoned Mine Land sites, including the appropriate level of environmental review prior to on-the-ground work.		
			SR:4.3	Protect public health and safety through review of geological hazards and application of appropriate management.		
			SR:4.4	Manage public exposure to H ₂ S on public lands.		
			SR:4.5	Reduce or eliminate hazards to human health and safety and the environment from hazardous substances or hazardous wastes.		
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES						
8006	X	X	SR:4.1 SR:4.5	Manage hazardous substances to reduce human and environmental risk, restore contaminated lands, and carry out emergency response activities.		
8007	X	X	SR:4.1 SR:4.5	Prepare Environmental Site Assessments on lands acquired or conveyed. Notify the public of conveyance of public lands affected by hazardous substances (CERCLA 120[h]).		
8008	X	X	SR:4.1	Warn the public of the release of hazardous substances. Work to prevent public exposure to contaminated areas.		
8009	X	X	SR:4.1 SR:4.5	Manage hazardous materials, including but not limited to hazardous substances, hazardous wastes, and hazardous materials, to reduce the risk to visitors, employees, and the environment, to restore contaminated lands, and to carry out emergency response activities, as per appropriate laws, policies, and regulations.		
8010	X	X	SR:4.1 SR:4.5	Require public notification by the BLM of the type and quantity of the hazardous substances, as required under CERCLA 120(h), and BLM policy to prepare Environmental Site Assessments for the acquisition and disposal of real property before the sale, exchange, or other transfer of public lands on which storage or disposal of hazardous substances is or has been known to have occurred.		
8011	X	X	SR:4.3	Develop a geologic hazards database that ranks threats to public health and safety. Inform applicants and project proponents of geologic hazards, and develop mitigation where appropriate.		
8012	X	X	SR:4.1 SR:4.4	Comply with the requirements of Occupational Safety and Health Administration and Onshore Order #6 relative to H ₂ S plans for new oil and gas wells.		
8013	X	X	SR:4.4	Mitigate potential safety concerns of H ₂ S wells and pipelines through signs, warning sirens, and public education. Safety distances are determined through site-specific H ₂ S plans.		
8014	X	X	SR:4	Consistent with Wyoming DEQ and EPA requirements, require Hazardous Spill Response Plans for all projects involving hazardous materials. Report spills and releases of chemicals, petroleum products, and produced water to Wyoming DEQ in accordance with Wyoming law.		

Detailed Alternatives

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

8000 SOCIOECONOMIC RESOURCES (SR) – Health and Safety						
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS BY ALTERNATIVE						
8015	X	X	SR:4.2	Inventory AML sites for hazards, and prioritize AML sites for reclamation in coordination with Wyoming DEQ.	Same as Alternative A, plus identify AML sites with warning signage and consider adding protective fencing around shafts and adits.	Same as Alternative A, except sites are not prioritized for reclamation.
8016	X	X	SR:4.3 SR:4.5	Allow activities in AML areas (Map 95) on a case-by-case basis.	Prohibit activities within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of AML areas (Map 95).	Allow activities in AML areas if the impacts can be avoided, minimized and/or compensated.
8017	X	X	SR:4.3	Provide warnings for geologic hazards.	Identify geologic hazard sites with warning signage, and inventory geologic hazards. Prohibit activities in geologic hazard areas.	Same as Alternative A. Identify geologic hazards on case-by-case. Allow activities in mitigated (remediated) geologic hazard areas.

¹Cody Field Office

²Worland Field Office

³Land Use Classification – criteria are based on that found in existing plans.

⁴Subject to restrictions due to other management actions.

⁵This area is managed in accordance with multiple use principles consistent with other resource objectives.

⁶"Priority habitat" when used in management actions common to alternatives E and F refers to either Key Habitat Areas (for Alternative E) or PHMAs (for Alternative F).

⁷Management is included under this alternative at this location for comparison purposes; the ACEC does not occur under Alternative B or the Proposed Plan, but this management is what would be applied to the ACEC area.

Table 2-9. Detailed Alternatives (Continued)

8000 SOCIOECONOMIC RESOURCES (SR) – Health and Safety												
Record #	C ¹	W ²	Goal/ Obj.	Alternative A (Current Management)	Alternative B (Least Resource Use)	Alternative C (More Resource Use)						
ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern											
AML	Abandoned Mine Land											
AMP	Allotment Management Plan											
APD	Application for Permit to Drill											
APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service											
AUM	Animal Unit Month											
BLM	Bureau of Land Management											
BMP	Best Management Practice											
BOR	Bureau of Reclamation											
C&MU	Classification and Multiple Use											
CBNG	Coalbed Natural Gas											
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act											
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations											
COA	Conditions of Approval											
COT	Conservation Objectives Team											
CSU	Controlled Surface Use											
CYFO	Bureau of Land Management Cody Field Office											
dBA	Decibels with an A-weighted scale											
DEQ	Department of Environmental Quality											
DLI	Desert Land Entry											
DOI	United States Department of the Interior											
DPC	Desired Plant Community											
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement											
EO	Executive Order											
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency											
ERMA	Extensive Recreation Management Area											
ESD	Ecological Site Description											
8000 SOCIOECONOMIC RESOURCES (SR) – Health and Safety												
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act											
FMP	Fire Management Plan											
FRCC	Fire Regime Condition Class											
GHMA	General Habitat Management Area											
H-S	Hydrogen Sulfide											
HA	Herd Area											
HMA	Herd Management Area											
HMG	Habitat Management Guidelines											
HMP	Habitat Management Plan											
HUC	Hydrologic Unit Code											
IM	Instruction Memorandum											
LRP	Limited reclamation potential											
MLP	Master Leasing Plan											
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding											
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act											
NHT	National Historic Trail											
NOS	Notice of Staking											
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places											
NSO	No Surface Occupancy											
NWSRS	National Wild and Scenic River System											
OHV	Off-Highway Vehicle											
PARC	Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation											
PEIS	Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement											
PETM	Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum											
PFC	Proper Functioning Condition											
PFYC	Potential Fossil Yield Classification											
PHMAS	Priority Habitat Management Areas											
PSD	prevention of Significant Deterioration											
Recreation and Public Purposes												
Recreation Area Management Plan												
Reservoir Management Group												
Resource Management Plan												
Recreation Management Zone												
Record of Decision												
Rights-of-way												
Setting Consideration Zone												
State Historic Preservation Office												
Special Management Area												
Special Recreation Management Area												
Special Recreation Permit												
Timing Limitations												
Total Maximum Daily Load												
Travel Management Plan												
United States Forest Service												
United States Fish and Wildlife Service												
Visual Resource Management												
Bureau of Land Management Worland Field Office												
Wyoming Game and Fish Department												
Wildlife Habitat Management												
Water Quality Division												
Wilderness Study Area												
Wild and Scenic River												
WSR												

2.8 Summary of Environmental Consequences by Alternative

Table 2-10 summarizes potential impacts under alternatives A through F. Where appropriate, the table quantifies potential impacts anticipated from BLM-authorized actions. Table 2-10 summarizes impacts under the six alternatives in acres and actions. For example, more acreage implies more impact (either beneficial or adverse). The Summary of Impacts by Alternative section for each resource in Chapter 4 provides a more detailed comparison of impacts between alternatives. Chapter 4 describes cumulative impacts from non-BLM actions; Table 2-10 does not include cumulative impacts.

The environmental consequences of alternatives are not anticipated to exceed known legal thresholds or standards over the life of this RMP, with the exception of air quality under Alternative C which has the potential to exceed thresholds, and water quality under all alternatives, which has the potential to exceed state water quality standards over the life of the RMP. No additional impacts to surface water quality are anticipated under any of the alternatives, other than the potential for those waters listed as impaired in Chapter 3, to continue to exceed state standards for fecal coliform and *E. coli* until the source of contamination can be identified and all landowners support the implementation of BLM approved BMPs (see Record #1039). Standard practices, BLM-approved BMPs, and guidelines for surface-disturbing activities are built into each alternative to avoid and minimize potential impacts. The BLM would consider mitigation of residual impacts during subsequent implementation-level projects and any associated environmental analyses performed at that time. All alternatives include reclamation of surface disturbance to reduce long-term impacts.

Table 2-10. Summary of Environmental Consequences by Alternative

Resources	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E	Alternative F
Air Quality						
NAAQS	Not anticipated to exceed	Not anticipated to exceed	Potential to exceed	Not anticipated to exceed	Not anticipated to exceed	Not anticipated to exceed
WAAQS	Not anticipated to exceed	Not anticipated to exceed	Potential to exceed	Not anticipated to exceed	Not anticipated to exceed	Not anticipated to exceed
Air Quality Related Value Impacts	Potential	Lowest Potential	Highest Potential	Potential	Lowest Potential	Potential
Visibility Impacts	Potential	Lowest Potential	Highest Potential	Potential	Lowest Potential	Potential
Atmospheric Deposition	Potential	Lowest Potential	Highest Potential	Potential	Lowest Potential	Potential

Summary of Environmental Consequences by Alternative

Table 2-10. Summary of Environmental Consequences by Alternative (Continued)

Resources	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E	Alternative F
<i>Soil and Water</i>						
Acres of Surface Disturbance Anticipated	136,253 short-term/ 15,646 long-term	73,940 short-term/ 10,893 long-term	245,642 short-term/ 41,485 long-term	140,175 short-term/ 18,306 long-term	71,829 short-term/ 10,802 long-term	137,064 short-term/ 17,663 long-term
Long-term Erosion Rate (Based on Disturbance from BLM Actions)	25,065 tons/year	17,450 tons/year	66,459 tons/year	29,326 tons/year	17,305 tons/year	28,297 tons/year
Groundwater Impacts	Potential	Lowest Potential	Potential	Potential	Lowest Potential	Potential
Produced Water Impacts	Potential	Lowest Potential	Potential	Potential	Lowest Potential	Potential
Surface Water Impacts	Potential	Lowest Potential	Greatest Potential	Potential	Lowest Potential	Potential
<i>Minerals</i>						
Acres Withdrawn or Recommended for Withdrawal from Appropriation under the Mining Laws for Locatable Mineral Entry	72,861	314,223	48,095	83,321	1,759,312	83,321
Total Projected New Oil and Gas Wells/Pads	1,695	968	1,815	1,652	965	1,652
Acres of BLM-administered Surface with Moderate Oil and Gas Potential Managed as Closed to Leasing or with Major Constraints	32,076	227,441	3,435	56,198	227,441	56,411
Acres of BLM-administered Surface with Moderate Oil and Gas Potential Affected by Raptor Nest TLS Buffer Areas	47,429	72,717	7,908	12,035	72,717	12,035
Acres of BLM-administered Surface with Moderate Oil and Gas Potential Affected by VRM Class I and II Areas	14,128	170,583	1,888	68,253	170,583	68,253
<i>Fire and Fuels Management</i>						
Acres of Disturbance from Prescribed Fire	40,000 short-term/ 0 long-term	20,000 short-term/ 0 long-term	80,000 short-term/ 0 long-term	40,000 short-term/ 0 long-term	18,000 short-term/ 0 long-term	40,000 short-term/ 0 long-term
Acres of Disturbance from Mechanical Fuels Treatment	30,000 short-term/ 0 long-term	5,000 short-term/ 0 long-term	60,000 short-term/ 0 long-term	30,000 short-term/ 0 long-term	5,000 short-term/ 0 long-term	30,000 short-term/ 0 long-term
<i>Vegetation</i>						
Acres of Surface-disturbing Activities in Grassland and Shrubland Communities	116,578 short-term/ 13,387 long-term	63,263 short-term/ 9,320 long-term	210,171 short-term/ 35,495 long-term	119,933 short-term/ 15,663 long-term	61,457 short-term/ 9,242 long-term	117,273 short-term/ 15,113 long-term

Summary of Environmental Consequences by Alternative

Table 2-10. Summary of Environmental Consequences by Alternative (Continued)

Resources	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E	Alternative F
Fragmentation of Native Plant Communities	Potential	Lowest Potential	Potential	Low Potential	Lowest Potential	Low Potential
Acres within and around Riparian/Wetland Areas where Surface-disturbing Activities are Restricted	70,715 (prohibited unless mitigated)	162,887 (prohibited)	CBC	70,715 (avoided) up to 140,464 if needed	162,887 (prohibited)	70,715 (avoided) up to 140,464 if needed
Wetland Impacts	Potential	Lowest Potential	Potential	Low Potential	Lowest Potential	Low Potential
<i>Invasive Species and Pest Management</i>						
Contribute to Spread of Invasive and/or Pest Species	Potential	Lowest Potential	Highest Potential	Potential	Lowest Potential	Potential
<i>Fish and Wildlife</i>						
Impacts to Water Quality and Fish Habitat	Potential	Lowest Potential	Highest Potential	Potential	Lowest Potential	Potential
Acres/Percent of Big Game Crucial Winter Range Closed to Mineral Leasing or with Major/Moderate Constraints	1,830,970/ 99%	1,830,970/ 99%	732,322/ 62%	1,830,970/ 99%	1,830,970/ 99%	1,830,970/ 99%
Acres of Big Game Crucial Winter Range Exempted from Seasonal Stipulations due to Oil and Gas Management Area	N/A	N/A	260,460	190,891	N/A	190,891
<i>Special Status Species</i>						
Adverse Effects to ESA Species within the Planning Area	Potential	Low Potential	Highest Potential	Low Potential	Lowest Potential	Low Potential
Acres of Priority Sage-grouse Habitat Closed to Oil and Gas Leasing ¹	41,120	1,490,758	23,535	75,325	1,490,758	67,476
Acres of Sage-grouse Winter Habitat/Key Habitat Area Exempted from Seasonal Stipulations within Oil and Gas Management Area	0	0	194,363	0	0	0
<i>Wild Horses</i>						
Acres of Federal Mineral Estate in McCullough Peaks and Fifteenmile HMAs Closed to Oil and Gas Leasing	33,837	165,921	27,767	37,599	165,921	37,599
Application of Seasonal Restrictions	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Heritage</i>						
Potential to Impact Eligible/Listed Cultural Sites and Paleontological Localities	Highest Potential	Lowest Potential	Potential	Low Potential	Lowest Potential	Low Potential

Summary of Environmental Consequences by Alternative

Table 2-10. Summary of Environmental Consequences by Alternative (Continued)

Resources	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E	Alternative F
<i>Renewable Energy</i>						
Acres with High Wind Energy Potential (Wind Power Class 4-7) within Renewable Energy Avoidance Areas	N/A	61,698	25,131	43,841	50,408	43,841
Acres with High Wind Energy Potential (Wind Power Class 4-7) within Renewable Energy Exclusion Areas	N/A	28,152	3,157	15,680	39,443	15,680
<i>Rights-of-Way and Corridors</i>						
Acres of Rights-of-Way and Corridors	787,618	133,184	131,184	131,852	133,184	131,852
<i>Travel and Transportation Management</i>						
Miles/Acres of New Roads and Trails due to User-pioneered and BLM-created Routes	847 miles/1,233 acres	1,908 miles/2,776 acres	8,873 miles/12,907 acres	4,001 miles/5,820 acres	839 miles/1,221 acres	4,001 miles/5,820 acres
Miles/Acres of New Roads and Trails due to ROW Authorizations	1,351 miles/1,966 acres (short-term) 675 miles/983 acres (long-term)	845 miles/1,229 acres (short-term) 422 miles/615 acres (long-term)	3,188 miles/4,638 acres (short-term) 1,594 miles/2,319 acres (long-term)	1,351 miles/1,966 acres (short-term) 675 miles/983 acres (long-term)	845 miles/1,229 acres (short-term) 422 miles/615 acres (long-term)	1,351 miles/1,966 acres (short-term) 675 miles/983 acres (long-term)
Acres Closed to Motorized Vehicle Use	68,115	170,253	9,274	61,010	170,253	61,010
Acres Open to Motorized Vehicle Use	1,311	3,132	14,830	5,885	3,132	5,885
Acres Limited to Existing Roads and Trails	2,315,896	592,563	2,137,574	1,955,943	592,563	1,295,072
Acres Limited to Designated Roads and Trails	797,077	2,416,378	1,020,748	1,159,557	2,416,378	1,820,427
<i>Recreation</i>						
Potential to Impact Recreation Desired Settings, Opportunities, Activities, Experiences, and Beneficial Outcomes	Potential	Lowest Potential	Highest Potential	Low Potential	Lowest Potential	Low Potential
<i>Lands with Wilderness Characteristics</i>						
Potential to Impact Lands with Wilderness Characteristics	Potential	Lowest Potential	Highest Potential	Potential	Lowest Potential	Low Potential
<i>Livestock Grazing</i>						
Total Active (Use) AUMs ² Lost from Closures and from Surface-disturbing Activity	1,663	163,609	4,120	1,912	163,609	1,851

Summary of Environmental Consequences by Alternative

Table 2-10. Summary of Environmental Consequences by Alternative (Continued)

Resources	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E	Alternative F
Potential for Effects from Restrictions in Greater Sage-Grouse Key and PHMAs	Low Potential	Highest Potential	Low Potential	Potential	Highest Potential	Potential
Active (Use) AUMs Projected at the End of the Planning Cycle/Percent Reduction from Baseline (305,264)	303,601/ <1%	141,655/ 54%	301,144/ 1%	303,352/ <1%	141,663/ 54%	303,413/ <1%
Total Authorized AUMs ³ Lost from Closures and from Surface-disturbing Activity	1,068	105,053	2,645	1,228	105,048	1,189
Authorized AUMs ³ Projected at the End of the Planning Cycle/Percent Reduction from Baseline (196,010)	194,942/ <1%	90,957/ 54%	193,365/ 1%	194,782/ <1%	90,962/ 54%	194,821/ <1%
<i>Special Designations</i>						
Acres Designated as ACECs	71,646	302,490	11,799	105,498	1,535,851	1,222,146
Special Designations (ACECs, SMAs, WSR eligible and suitable waterways, WSAs) Focusing on Resource Conservation	237,586	466,243	178,433	269,417	1,550,320	1,348,797
Nez Perce NHT	Potential	Lowest Potential	Potential	Low Potential	Lowest Potential	Low Potential
National Trails System – Other Historic Trails	Potential	Lowest Potential	Potential	Low Potential	Lowest Potential	Low Potential
<i>Socioeconomics</i>						
Effect on Planning Area Population	Low Impact	Medium Impact (potential reductions focused in oil/gas service areas, which generally correspond to population centers)	Low Impact	Low Impact	Medium Impact (potential reductions focused in oil/gas service areas, which generally correspond to population centers)	Low Impact
Effect on Housing and Community Services	Low Impact	Medium Impact (due to potential population reductions)	Low Impact	Low Impact	Medium Impact (due to potential population reductions)	Low Impact

Summary of Environmental Consequences by Alternative

Table 2-10. Summary of Environmental Consequences by Alternative (Continued)

Resources	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E	Alternative F
Impacts on Quality of Life and Local Culture	Low Impact	Medium Impact (change from recent trends would constitute greater emphasis on resource conservation)	Medium Impact (change from recent trends would constitute greater emphasis on resource development)	Low Impact	Low to medium Impact (change from recent trends would constitute greater emphasis on resource conservation)	Low Impact
Forecasted annual earnings (millions of 2011 dollars) due to activities on BLM-administered surface ⁴	\$86.7	\$38.5	\$94.1	\$83.9	\$38.3	\$83.8
Forecasted annual employment due to activities on BLM-administered surface ⁴	1,520	763	1,631	1,478	761	1,477

¹Priority and Key Habitat Areas exist within the Planning Area, but Key Habitat Areas are only managed under alternatives B and C, while PHMAs are only managed under alternatives D and F.

²Permitted AUMs are AUMs that are allowed on a permit/lease that can be used in any given year provided the forage is available.

³Authorized AUMs are the AUMs actually billed for and paid for each year by the permittee/lessee. The ratio of historical average billed use or actual use to permitted use in the Planning Area is 64 percent.

⁴Estimate of annual earnings and employment includes direct, indirect, and induced economic activity (the “multiplier effect”).

<	less than	NHT	National Historic Trail
ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern	PHMA	Priority Habitat Management Area
AUM	animal unit month	ROW	right-of-way
BLM	Bureau of Land Management	SMA	Special Management Area
CBC	case-by-case	VRM	Visual Resource Management
ESA	Endangered Species Act	WAAQS	Wyoming Ambient Air Quality Standards
HMA	Herd Management Area	WSA	Wilderness Study Area
N/A	not applicable	WSR	Wild and Scenic River
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards		

Summary of Environmental Consequences by Alternative

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